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Inter-Arab Affairs

AMU Consultative Council Holds Tripoli Meeting

Libyan Leader Opens Session

LD0703144391 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] The extraordinary meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union's [AMU] Consultative Council opened this morning at the People's Hall in Tripoli.

The brother secretary of the General People's Congress delivered a speech in which he welcomed the members of the council, and stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah was the land of all Arabs, that it has removed all the entrance gates, and that entry to the Great Jamahiriyah did not require passports or visas. He added that the establishment of the AMU, which came in response to the will and aspirations of the Arab masses in that part of the greater Arab homeland and due to the political will of the AMU, was affirmed at the historic Marrakech summit. [passage omitted]

He said that among the duties of the Consultative Council was to consolidate and strengthen the Union, and that the current necessity is to redouble its efforts in order to confirm the Union as an actual reality felt in all fields by the Arab citizens in the Union, and to build a united Arab Maghreb to serve the interests of the toilers and the poor, and in which the Arab person's rights are affirmed.

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman Makhlufi, chairman of the Consultative Council, delivered a speech in which he conveyed the Consultative Council's greetings to the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah on the 14th anniversary of the declaration of people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history. He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah is the land of all Arabs and a living model of direct people's democracy. [passage omitted]

Meetings of the experts committee of the AMU follow-up committee opened this morning in Tripoli. During its meetings, the committee will discuss and revise the agreements and resolutions prepared by the specialist ministerial committees to be submitted to the follow-up committee which will begin its meetings tomorrow in Tripoli.

Moroccan Envoy Criticizes U.S.

LD0703224791 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] The proceedings of the extraordinary session of the consultative council of the Arab Maghreb Union started at the people's hall in Tripoli this morning. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording of 'Ali Yata, secretary general of the Moroccan Party for Progress and Socialism] There is no longer the slightest doubt that the Arab nation is currently passing through the darkest phase in its history and the most dangerous unprecedented conspiracy. The forces of injustice and oppression, the forces of neocolonialism, have launched a frenzied attack against Arab interests and worked in the open with the force of weapons and fire for imposing their conspiracy and carrying out their plans aimed at subjugating the Arabs and making them submit to their influence and domination, thus challenging the most basic principles of international law and general morals and human values. To carry out this act, they exploited the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which we, for our part, have condemned since 2 August; we warned against its evil consequences and repeated our condemnation in front of you during our latest meeting in the Algerian capital.

Indeed, all the masks and justifications which enabled the United States to convince the permanent members of the UN Security Council to declare war against fraternal Iraq fell after the achievement of real opportunities for ceasefire, for established peace and for solving the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions, the requirements of the principles of justice and legitimacy, and the right of peoples to self-determination. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Delegates Thank Host

LD0803072691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Members of the Arab Maghreb Union Consultative Council, at the end of their extraordinary session, sent a cable to the brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution [al-Qadhdhafi]. The text of the cable follows:

The AMU Consultative Council, meeting at a special session in Tripoli on 7 March 1991, in connection with the Gulf war and its results, would like to extend greetings of appreciation and recognition to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, on the occasion of the Great Jamahiriyah playing host to this special session of the Maghreban Consultative Council in the difficult circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing—and especially the comprehensive destruction to which the fraternal Iraqi people were subjected by the forces of imperialist injustice and aggression.

On this occasion, we congratulate the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Union's Council. We are convinced that the Maghreban edifice will be bolstered and enhanced under your chairmanship, in response to the aspirations of the sons of the Arab Maghreb to facilitate the realization of the peoples' hopes—particularly under the new international circumstances, which require more than ever before the necessity for cohesion and self-reliance in striving for a comprehensive Arab unity in confronting all forms of domination and containment. We also

would like to salute the General People's Congress and the Libyan Arab people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the members of the AMU Consultative Council. We praise your permanent support and backing on the issue of the hero Palestinian people—the central issue of the Arab nation—under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In conclusion, members of the Consultative Council wish the Maghreban summit, scheduled to be held during the next few days, every success, and hope that it comes out with resolutions responding to the aspirations and ambitions of the popular masses. Long live the unity of the Greater Arab Maghreb. May God firm your steps for the good of the nation. God is the provider of success.

Issue Statement on Gulf

LD0803084191 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The work of the extraordinary session of the AMU Consultative Council ended last night at the hall of the General People's Congress in Tripoli. The session was devoted to studying the situation in the Arabian Gulf area and its reflections on the situation and the sublime interests of the Arab nation. The AMU Consultative Council at the end of its meeting last night in Tripoli municipality issued a statement. Follows the text of the statement:

The AMU Consultative Council, meeting on 7 March at a special session in Tripoli in the Great Jamahiriyah; in accordance with the treaty of the Union and the declaration of the establishment of the Union; reaffirming the aspirations of our people in the countries of the Arab Maghreb; proceeding from the historic stances of the Maghreban people which call for the bolstering and development of Arab action to realize comprehensive Arab unity; depending on the principled attitudes which the Consultative Council expressed at its previous sessions; recalling the contents of its statement about the development of the Palestinian issue and the situation in the Arabian Gulf issued at the end of its second session held in Algiers during the first month of 1991; and proceeding from the analysis of the current situation in the Arabian Gulf and its reflections on the future of the Arab nation:

First: Reaffirms that Arab unity is a vital issue of Arab existence, now and in the future, on account that this unity is the effective means for safeguarding its freedom, wealth and resisting all forms of domination and containment and a means for building its one pan-Arab entity which is capable of liberating the Arab land and reaffirming the dignity of the Arab nation.

Second: Expresses its rejection of the policy of alliances inside the Arab homeland and calls on the Arab countries to cooperate on the current crisis and work for reuniting the Arab people to realize comprehensive unity, lauding in this connection the unity-seeking initiatives of the leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union, particularly the project of Arab union submitted by the brother leader of the great Fatih revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the current chairman of the AMU leadership council.

Third: Condemns the aggression which fraternal Iraq was subjected to at the hands of the American forces and their allies, particularly as the development of the war has revealed the real aims of that aggression, and demands the evacuation of these forces from the Arab land and the lifting of the economic blockade of Iraq.

Fourth: Supports fraternal Iraq in its efforts that aim to rebuild its progress, appeals to the sons of the Arab nation to stand by Iraq at this decisive phase, and strongly condemns all the conspiracies which aim at striking Iraq's unity.

Fifth: Reaffirms the necessity of finding a just solution for the issue of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with genuine international legitimacy and away from double standards in dealing with international issues.

Sixth: Calls for the continuation of support for the revolution of the Palestinian Arab people and the struggle of the stone-throwing children and the protection of the sons of the Palestinian people, wherever they may be, from all excesses, and strongly rejects any attempt to marginalize the leading role of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Seventh: Reaffirms the importance of making more efforts to bolster the work of the Arab Maghreb Union as well as firming and strengthening its establishments in order to avoid all negativity, and to develop the charters of the Union to realize the aspirations of our people in the Arab Maghreb for Arab unity, and within this framework the Council looks forward with great hope toward the results of the forthcoming summit of the AMU member countries.

Eighth: Calls for deepening the channels of strong and permanent contacts between the popular organizations and bodies in the member states of the Arab Maghreb Union on account that they are the popular depth of the Union and the tools for the realization of the Union's comprehensive development.

Ninth: Calls for the acceleration of laying down the comprehensive development strategy for the Arab Maghreb Union.

Tenth: Reaffirms the necessity of deepening the democratic trend and the protection of human rights and public freedoms as a main prop in the Maghrebi edifice.

Eleventh: Expresses its profound gratitude to the General People's Congress in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for playing host to this special session and for the generous hospitality, warm welcome.

and the excellent organization, a matter which effectively contributed to the success of the session.

Kuwaiti Minister Meets Palestinian Leaders

LD0703113991 London KUNA in Arabic 1051 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Damascus, (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-'Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah conferred here last night with a delegation of the Palestinian National Salvation Front leadership.

The meeting was attended by 'Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria and Lebanon; Khalid al-Fahhum, chairman of the Front; Talal Naji, PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]-General Command Secretary General; Isam al-Qadi, al-Sa'iqah secretary general; Col. Muhammad Sa'id Musa—Abu-Musa, treasurer of the transitional command of Fatah-intifadah [title as received]; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Muhsim—Abu-Mayzar, PLO official spokesman; and Fadl Shururu, PFLP-General Command official spokesman.

In a statement to KUNA after the meeting, al-Fahhum said: "First of all, our duty is to congratulate Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad for the liberation of Kuwait. This is our duty because, from the first moment, we opposed the occupation. We have emphasized that Yasir 'Arafat does not represent all the Palestinian people; therefore, his stances should not reflect on the Palestinian people."

In reply to a question about whether there were ideas of finding an alternative for the PLO leadership, al-Fahhum said that such ideas exist on all levels and not only on a single level.

Al-Fahhum added that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that the Palestinians in Kuwait will be treated exactly the same as the Kuwaitis and will not be harmed or treated unjustly.

He added that the talks included the Palestinian issue after the Gulf crisis has ended, and that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed the readiness of Kuwait, the amir, government, and people, to support the Palestinian cause in international organizations.

In reply to a question, he said: From the first day we have been struggling in all the Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Gulf media to inform the Palestinian people, and now we must inform them even more and tell them that the Kuwaiti Government has hosted you very generously and has treated you very well, together with the other Gulf countries; therefore, your view of Kuwait should be a view of true fraternity, amicability, love, and service.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Refuses To Hold 'Any Contact' With Baker

NC0803130391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Mar 91 p 16

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The PLO has decided not to hold any "contact" with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his upcoming visit to occupied Palestine next week.

The decision was made "unanimously" during the meeting the Palestinian leadership held in Tunis from 2 to 6 March.

Palestinian leadership sources asserted to AL-RA'Y that this "unified decision" was made after discussing several ideas and views presented to the Palestinian leadership, and after consulting the Palestinian leaders inside occupied Palestine, who were unanimus on the need to boycott any Palestinian contact with Baker.

The same sources also said that the decision was made to emphasize the official and popular Palestinian rejection of any alternative to the PLO.

The Palestinian leadership reemphasized that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, referring to American and Israeli circles which are talking about the exclusion of the PLO and that are preparing to solve the Palestine question.

The same Palestinian sources also asserted that the situation inside occupied Palestine is clear and that there is a "national consensus" that no one can violate by contacting Baker.

The Palestinian leadership wondered about the visit and said that it comes amid Palestinian and Arab anger over the American policy toward the region. It then urged the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to voice their rejection of the visit and to escalate the brave intifadah with all means available.

Qaddumi Says 'Mother of Battles' Achieved Goals

NC0703191791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[From the "Arab and World Media" program]

[Text] In a press statement to the Baghdad newspaper AL-THAWRAH, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, affirmed that the mother of battles has decisively terminated the Camp David era and moved the Arab nation to a stage of popular struggle calling for the liberation and independence of Arab political and economic decisionmaking. Qaddumi added that this battle has achieved its political goals on various Arab, Palestinian, and human levels and has foiled the imperialist-Zionist plot against the Arab individual.

On the positive effect of the mother of battles on the Palestine question, Qaddumi indicated that the battle has boosted the morale of the Palestinian masses, increased the effectiveness of the intifadah, and enhanced Palestinian militant objectives. He said the battle also made Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine decline by 43 percent and prompted the Israelis to flee the occupied Arab territories.

Sees Iraqi 'Political Victory'

NC0803095191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the United States failed to realize its political aims of striking the Iraqi people, destroying Iraq's military capability, and undermining the Arab people's morale.

At a news conference held here yesterday, Qaddumi said that Iraq realized a political victory in confronting the imperialist, Atlantic, and Zionist forces. Qaddumi noted that the U.S. threats to Iraq preceded 2 August 1991 because Washington knew that Iraq regarded the Palestinian cause as the central Arab cause.

Qaddumi wondered why the Arabs were not given a chance to solve the Palestinian problem while the issue of Kuwait was presented to the Security Council to give justification for foreign interference in the region's affairs, alluding to the role of a ruler in the intervention by U.S. and Atlantic forces in the Arabian Gulf region to serve hostile aims by striking at Iraq and its military power. [sentence as received]

Qaddumi noted that this experience maintained Iraq's steadfastness and foiled the plot that was aimed at dividing Iraq.

Qaddumi said the phase of Arab awakening started with the failure of the theory of Israeli security, adding that Iraqi missiles crossed the green line and landed in Israel, in the heart of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

Concluding his news conference, Qaddumi emphasized that the battle in the Gulf prompted the Arab masses in the Arab homeland to effect political changes and participate in decisionmaking, and highlighted the Palestinian cause more than ever before.

PLO Welcomes 'Positive Elements' in Bush Speech

LD0703190391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1703 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] U.S. President George Bush, in a speech before Congress yesterday evening said: Our commitment to realize peace in the Middle East does not stop at the liberation of Kuwait. He outlined four main objectives. They are: 1. To work for drawing up security agreements in the area. 2. To work for controlling the spread of weapons of total destruction and missiles. 3. To work to create new opportunities for peace and stability in the Middle East, which require middle solutions [hulul wasat] based on the two UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, and on the principles of: land for peace to guarantee the security and recognition of Israel and at the same time the legitimate political rights of Palestinians. The time has come to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. 4. To encourage economic development for peace and progress.

Following this speech, an official statement by the PLO Executive Committee was issued. The text of this is as follows:

The PLO welcomes the positive elements in the speech of U.S. President George Bush concerning the solving of the Arab-Israeli conflict and dealing with the Palestinian issue, which is the heart of the conflict, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The PLO, being committed to the international legitimacy which formed the basis of the Palestinian peace initiative, considers that what the U.S. President has expressed requires persistent efforts to implement all the resolutions of international legitimacy which apply to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East, and whatever insures an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, and guarantees the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence. This requires the UN Security Council to directly implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

The Palestinian people have suffered for well over 40 years from procrastination and hindrance of the resolutions of international legitimacy. It becomes clear after the Gulf War that the key to guaranteeing peace and security in the area is the actual and just implementation of these resolutions, bringing to an end the method of double standards and respecting the right of all the peoples to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and its resolutions.

Fatah Envoy Calls Bush Statement 'Positive Step'

NC0703170291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the representative of the Fatah Movement in Cairo, said that the statement by U.S. President George Bush, declaring his commitment to the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on UN Security Council resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, is a positive step. It places the United States—if that country is serious and is actually working for the realization of such a peace—on the right track.

In a statement today, al-Qidrah said that the PLO sides with the realization of international legitimacy, with the consensus of the international community, and with international principles, treaties, and laws. The PLO

believes in the protection of the freedom and rights of individuals and nations. It believes in the achievement of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which are their rights to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Al-Qidrah said that President Bush has taken several positive positions with regard to the Palestinian issue in a number of his statements after coming to office, but he has not referred to these positions [yatatarraq ilayha] in his administration's dealings with the Palestinian issue.

Al-Qidrah said that the Palestinian people and their leadership, the PLO, have renounced terrorism and worked for peace at the same time as Israel is escalating its terror and suppression against the Palestinian people. This calls for the rapid provision of international protection for the Palestinian people to enable them to decide their own future in accordance with international legitimacy and conventions.

The Palestinian people called on the United States to prove its credibility in a practical way. He added that the Palestinian issue, if left unresolved, will remain the first and foremost challenge to the establishment of a new international order based on international legitimacy.

Al-Surani Denies Crisis in Ties With Egypt

PM0603102291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Mar 91 p 1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Al-Surani Denies Existence of Egyptian-Palestinian Crisis!!"]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has denied the existence of a crisis in Egyptian-Palestinian relations. He said that they are experiencing a temporary phase of differences between the two sides. He said that the future of Egyptian-Palestinian relations cannot be determined by certains sectors of the media.

He also said that, during his stay in Egypt, he made extensive contacts with Egyptian officials, and first and foremost with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Jamal al-Surani left Cairo the day before yesterday following the conclusion of his talks in Egypt. He also headed the PLO delegation to the meetings of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers.

DFLP Calls For Boycott of Baker Visit

NC0603160891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 91 p 14

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has called for the departure of all U.S., British, and French forces from the Iraqi areas they are occupying. It also called on the Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories to boycott U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the region which will begin Monday [11 March].

The DFLP's official spokesman said that actual U.S. intentions for launching an attack on Iraq are to exhaust and blackmail the country and to try to influence its internal political, economic, and military conditions, as part of the new colonialist policy that the United States is trying to implement in the Arab world.

He added: Continued U.S.-Atlantic hostility requires that the national forces work to contain the aggression and thwart its colonialist objectives. He called on the Arab countries and the national forces opposing the U.S.-Atlantic intervention to curb American attempts, represented in the host of alleged security preparations and efforts to secure the liquidation of regional issues, including the Palestine question, to contain the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

The spokesman noted that the secretary of state's visit is a part of the U.S. Administration's efforts to gain political capital from the hostile war on Iraq.

The DFLP's spokesman said: We now have the right to demand that the world and the United Nations put maximum pressure, including economic and military pressure, on Israel to force it to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian and Arab land, and to fully comply with international legitimacy's resolutions on the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Delegation Leaves for Iraq

NC0703141991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 91 p 12

[Text] Amman—A delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by Saji Salamah, member of the front's Political Bureau, left for Baghdad yesterday.

The delegation's visit is part of the PLO's contacts with the Iraqi leadership to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf and Iraq, Palestinian and Arab developments, and ways to strengthen and unify the Arab position in confronting the U.S. maneuvers to impose its hegemony on the region.

Salamah said that this visit reflects the nature of the Iraqi-Palestinian and Palestinian-Arab relations, which did not cease during or after the war.

He said that the current situation requires the greatest strengthening of Arab relations, especially with Iraq, which will have an important regional political role in the political equation in the region.

PFLP Urges Protection of Palestinians in Kuwait

NC0703141591 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 91 p 18

[Text] Amman—An official source of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has made the following statement:

Hostilities against our people in Kuwait are increasing. Our kinfolk are being suppressed and killed. A number of people have been martyred or injured, and there are a countless number of detainees. Our kinfolk in Kuwait are living in a collective detention camp where they cannot go from one place to another or go out to buy necessities. The majority is suffering real hunger.

We hold the Kuwaiti Government and the countries occupying Kuwait, foremost being the United States, fully responsible for what is happening to our people in Kuwait. All those whose hands were stained with the blood of our people or who insulted our people's dignity will not escape punishment.

We urge the international community and the Arab and international human organizations to move rapidly and stop what is happening to our people in Kuwait.

'Arafat Asks Bendjedid To Help Palestinians

NC0703013091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 91 p 14

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leadership sources have told AL-DUSTUR that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and a number of Arab leaders to prevent any attacks on Palestinians in Kuwait.

It has been learned that a number of Arab leaders held contacts with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in this regard.

New Palestinian Group Calls 'Arafat To Resign

NC0703130991 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Mar 91 p 7

[From the "One Homeland" column]

[Text] A booklet has been distributed in Beirut in the name of the 14 January Corrective Movement "Fatah" [Harakat al-Rabi' 'Ashar Min Kanun al-Thani al-Tashihiyah], headlined "Enough Losing Bets, Abu-'Ammar" [Yasir 'Arafat]. The booklet is a message addressed from the unknown movement to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, calling on him to step down in view of the situation the Palestinian people are in under his leadership.

The name of the movement suggests that the date of its establishment is somehow linked to the assassination of Salah Khalaf [Abu-Iyad], Fatah Central Committee member in Tunis on 14 January, particularly because the message says: "We would have liked to see martyr Abu-Iyad as chairman of our movement, head of our struggle, and leader of our battle. The hand of treachery, cowardice, and treason killed him, for no other reason than that he was a danger to the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat [Abu-'Ammar] and that he opposed Abu-'Ammar's policy and his master's, Saddam Husayn."

The message assailed 'Arafat's support for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the PLO's involvement, which flagrantly violated the Palestinian National Charter, led to the unemployment of 1 million Palestinians, stabbed the intifadah in the back, diverted attention from the Palestinian cause, and resulted in increasing aid to the Zionist gangs. The message concluded by calling for "ridding our people and leadership of the badge of disgrace which 'Arafat personifies, removing the masks of those claiming struggle and revolution, exposing the role they are playing, and convening an immediate session of the [PLO] Executive Committee to be followed by a call to convene a meeting of the Palestine National Council to elect a replacement to 'Arafat. Before that, however, he must return to the Palestinian people all the funds he has collected from the Arabs."

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Praises Bush's 7 Mar Speech

NC0805112791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President George Bush's speech yesterday on the Middle East included positive points and that the parties concerned support the U.S. moves aimed at finding a solution for the Palestinian problem and establishing peace in the region. These parties also appreciate the role the U.S. President and his secretary of state are playing in this regard.

Commenting today on President Bush's speech on the Middle East, 'Abd-al-Majid expressed Egypt's hope that Israel will respond to this approach so that the region can enjoy comprehensive and just peace, guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the parties concerned. [passage omitted]

Views Damascus Talks, Baker Visit

NC0703141791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a statement upon arriving in Cairo from Damascus today in which he described the meetings of the foreign ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members, Egypt, and Syria, as "important meetings." 'Abd-al-Majid said that the ministers exchanged views on Gulf developments.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the eight foreign ministers met in Damascus with the foreign ministers of the European troika—Italy, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg—and reviewed with them the latest developments in the Gulf region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab ministers briefed the troika ministers on the Damascus Declaration which expresses the views of the eight Arab nations on current and future affairs. 'Abd-al-Majid said that both sides have agreed to continue their consultations in the future.

As for the coming tour of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the region, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that it will be "a useful opportunity" to have consultations with the United States. He added: We all hope that this tour will help further the peace efforts, a matter of great interest to all of us.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo earlier today following a visit to Syria in which he was accompanied by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Assistant Foreign Minister Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr.

Need To Solve Palestine Question Stressed

NC0603075791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0455 GMT 6 Mar 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Before the Opportunity Slips By," AL-AHRAM writes in "An Opinion" column: The time has come for the Arab countries, especially those that participated in the international alliance against Iraq, and the big powers in the international community, to take action to reach a just and permanent solution to the Palestine question now that Kuwait has been liberated. If the politically and militarily effective Arab countries rejected Saddam Husayn's call to link the Kuwaiti and Palestinian causes, they did so because they were convinced of the perverse logic behind this linkage.

Now that Kuwait has been liberated, serious action must be taken to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and enable them to practice their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state.

The newspaper went on to say: Surely, the arrangement in the region after the end of the war will be highly comprehensive. We must affirm the importance of taking the Palestinian people's cause into consideration, since abandoning this cause now will only bring further insecurity, as well as waste an ideal opportunity to solve the Palestine question, especially since the big powers, headed by the United States, are now more ready than ever to start a serious march toward a peaceful solution in the region.

Commentator Pessimistic on Arab-Israeli Settlement

PM0703154491 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Mar 91 p 12

[Kamil Zuhayri article: "Through the Keyhole"]

[Text] As far as the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned, we will go back to square one. Each party to the conflict will reiterate its previous position and the same old scenario of promise, expectation, talk, and anxiety will be repeated.

The Palestinian question will reemerge and the United States will certainly come up with a new initiative. It will be exactly the same as President Ronald Reagan's 1982 initiative announced a few months after the Lebanon war. Numerous meetings will be held and numerous visits will be made. That could take a year or more until a new major crisis occurs that temporarily sets the matter aside. Then that same issue would resurface.

As long as the United States is the mediator, the judge, and the partner who wants to monopolize peace and the security arrangements in the region as it has managed to monopolize the war decision, the United States will repeat the same positions and will declare that it supports stability and the settlement of the region's problems but without pressure on the parties concerned.

That means that it will let Israel continue to rule and control the occupied Arab territories. It will maintain its triple occupation of Arab territories in southern Lebanon, the Syrian Golan Heights, and the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip. The United States will be preoccupied with its own objective of isolating Iraq as a state in fulfillment of military requirements, and it would do no harm if the Palestinian people were also kept at bay in fulfilling Israel's requirements, the strategic and permanent ally of the United States.

As far as the Arab-Israeli conflict is concerned, we will go back to square one. The United States, having excluded the United Nations, Europe, and the Soviet Union in its monopoly of peace, will proceed with its own firm and permanent plan. There would be no harm done if it gave some diplomatic signals for the benefit of those who cheer and applaud, and there would be no harm done if some inter-Arab fighting and a tribal liquidation war broke out.

France will support the idea of an international conference, and Israel will reject it. Britain will join the United States and there will be a tripartite U.S.-British-French solidarity in the urgent task of reaping the fruits of the Gulf war victory and establishing a military balance between the forces of Iran, Iraq, and Syria, but always maintaining the slogan "Israel's nuclear and missile power shall not be touched."

We will hear a lot about regional security and collective security, and there will be differences of opinion because each one will be thinking of his own security. Security and safety will continue to be threatened and will continue to be at risk unless the Palestinian question is resolved and a Palestinian state established. Unless security is based on justice and self-determination, Arab oil will continue to be held for ransom by foreign forces and our security will be in the hands of others.

I hope I am not too pessimistic. I always claim to be a professional optimist.

Libya

U.S. Statement on Al-Rabitah Plant 'Refuted'

LD0703190391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Mar (JANA)—A responsible source in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has refuted the statement made by a spokesman for the U.S. State Department that Libya is still capable of producing chemical weapons at the al-Rabitah plant.

The source pointed out that the Great Jamahiriyah is now holding serious negotiations with European states in order to repair and operate the industrial complex at al-Rabitah to produce medicines to meet the needs of the Arab homeland and other parts of the world.

The official source in the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation added that these negotiations include participation in the factory administration and management by experts from Western Europe and Libyan Arabs.

Marches Celebrate People's Power Anniversary

LD0303021891 Tripoli JANA in English 1630 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Benghazi, 2 Mar (JANA)—Masses of students and academic staffmembers of educational institutions, al-Fatih buds, cadets and arms and scouts from various parts of the municipality of al-Bayan al-Awwal (Banghazi) went out in marches of joy and delight in celebration of the 14th anniversary of the proclamation of people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history.

The masses carried banners expressing their eternal commitment to people's authority which is one of the great options realised by the Libyan Arab people thanks to the great al-Fatih revolution in entrenchment of direct democracy. Also, the participants, who marched the main streets and squares, carried pictures of creator of the masses' era, the leader of the great al-Fatih revolution.

The masses sent a message to the leader of the revolution reiterating their vow to continue the process of entrenching people's authority and propagating the glorious humane dicta of the third universal theory until the green color prevails all parts of the world.

Morocco

Papers Assail Actions Against Iraq

LD0703151691 Rabat MAP in English 1352 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Rabat, Mar 7 (MAP)—The dailies of some Moroccan opposition parties in their Thursday releases denounced the threat against Iraq's territorial integrity and the continued economic blockade against Baghdad.

For "L'OPINION" of the Istiqlal Party (nationalist), although Iraq accepted all UNO Security Council resolutions and conditions by the alliance, provocative and intimidation acts by the coalition [word indistinct] and economic sanctions are maintained. The daily underlines the serious threat against Iraq's integrity with the occupation of southern Iraq by the coalition forces and support by these alien forces to unrest in some areas of the country.

The United States, the daily went on, never made a secret of its wish to drive the Iraqi population to rebellion against the regime of President Saddam Husayn. Yet, maintaining the blockade to oust President Saddam Husayn can help other sides achieve goals which do not necessarily serve the interest of Washington. Therefore,

goes "L'OPINION", it is only normal that the USA starts a new deal to rekindle other conflicts in the region to protect their interests and Israel's and enforce a new regional order. It is not only Iraq's territorial integrity and stability which are in jeopardy, says the daily, but those (?other) Arab and Muslim countries in the region?

The [word indistinct] daily of the Party for Progress [words indistinct] says the worst is yet to come because Iraq's adversaries have not given up plans to dismember it. [passage indistinct] Nobody in the Arab world, including those who atagonised Baghdad, should accept the idea of seeing Iraqi territory dismembered, writes the daily.

Sudan

Khalifah Assures Iraqi Envoy on 'Firm Stand'

EA0703115591 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Yesterday, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member and chairman of the Peace and Foreign Relations Department, received in his Friendship Hall office Mr. 'Abd al-Samad Hamad 'Ali, Iraq's ambassador in Khartoum, in the presence of the head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department. The meeting touched on the latest developments in the Gulf situation following the cease-fire.

Col. Khalifah told his excellency the ambassador about the Sudanese people's and Government's pride in the valiant steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their Armed Forces, as well as their great esteem for their heroic sacrifices in facing up to the Atlantic aggression with all its sophisticated machinery.

Col. Khalifah stressed that free Arab peoples do not collapse or surrender and always respond to the call of justice. The fighting people's fighters never die. He pointed out that Iraq has achieved the greatest victory for the Arab-Muslim nation and for their great cause: the Palestinian cause. Now the call to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East has become the issue of the moment.

Col. Khalifah assured the ambassador of Sudan's principled and firm stand before, during, and after the war. It is a stand that has not changed under the changed circumstances nor does it stem from narrow personal calculations. Sudan has always held the view that the crisis should have been solved within the Arab framework and believes that there was a possibility of realizing this had sufficient time and effort been devoted to it.

Sudan continues to reject the interference in the crisis of the international forces, who have strategic ambitions in the region, and Sudan rejects the war, which is aimed at destroying Iraq and Kuwait more than protecting Saudi Arabia and liberating Kuwait. Throughout the crisis, Sudan has continued to support all the peace initiatives to prevent the outbreak of war.

Col. Khalifah told his excellency the ambassador that both Iraq and Kuwait are targets of the international forces, which have placed their own strategic interests above the interests of the states of the region.

Rebel Radio Reports Official's Visit to Egypt

EA0703101491 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Mr. Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, has concluded a successful visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt [ARE]. The visit lasted four weeks, during which time he met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the ARE. He discussed with the president the situation in Sudan, developments in the Arab world, and the situation resulting from Saddam Husayn's occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. Mubarak al-Mahdi also met Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and secretary general of the ruling Egyptian National Party. He also met a number of ministers and officials in sisterly Egypt, in line with deepening the understanding between the Ummah party, the National Democratic Alliance [NDA] and Egypt, especially in light of the crucial situation currently facing Sudan—political and economic collapse under the leadership of the National Islamic Front government in Khartoum.

Among Mubarak al-Mahdi's meetings was one with Mr. Khalid Muhyi al-Din, leader of the opposition in the Egyptian Parliament and chairman of the Alliance Party, and Mr. Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, chairman of the opposition Wafd Party. Mahdi thanked them for their stand in favor of democracy in Sudan and explained to them the latest developments in Sudan.

At the end of his visit, Mr. Mubarak al-Mahdi called a press conference during which he explained to journalists from Egyptian newspapers—national and opposition papers—the situation facing Sudan and the agreement reached by political groups and the military with the NDA to topple the current ideological military system in Sudan and to establish a democratic system in Sudan, with the establishment of peace and the participation of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in the next democratic government.

Islamic Law To Go Into Effect in North 22 Mar

EA0703224191 Nairobi KNA in English 0943 GMT 07 Mar 91

[Text] Dakar, 7 March (PANA/KNA)—The Islamic law (shari'a) will go into effect in all northern Sudan provinces from 22 March, reports reachings PANA from

Khartoum on Wednesday [6 March] indicated. The ruling Revolutionary Command Council recently decided to re-introduce the law, saying that the 1983 Penal Code would be applied for all crimes from that date.

Since it was introduced in the country in 1983, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, in the mainly Christian southern Sudan, has taken arms to fight the central government. This time, however, the population in the southern provinces would be exempted.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Comments on Damascus Meeting

NC0703150591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama from Damascus this afternoon after taking part in the second joint meeting between the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the foreign ministers of Egypt and Syria.

Upon arrival, the foreign minister told WAKH that the eight states which took part in the Damascus meeting continued discussions on the steps that were agreed upon during their first meeting in Cairo last month.

He added that the participants at the meeting approved the Damascus declaration for cooperation and coordination among Arab states. He said the declaration signals the emergence of a new spirit for joint Arab action and a nucleus for an Arab peacekeeping force that guarantees the peace and security of Arab states. He said the declaration is a model that realizes an effective Arab defense system [words indistinct] proceeding from absolute commitment to all Arab and international charters, relations of good-neighborliness, inadmissibility of the acquisition of territories by force, noninterference in internal affairs, settling disputes through peaceful means, and respecting the principle of each state's sovereignty over its natural and economic resources. [passage omitted]

Praises Syrian Role

NC0703113991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this morning, after taking part in the meetings among the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and between them and the European troika delegation which were concluded in Damascus yesterday evening. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the directors of the protocol and European departments at the Foreign Ministry.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent before his departure, Shaykh Ibn-Mubarak expressed his pleasure at and appreciation of his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. He described the meeting as useful and honorable. He added that President al-Asad's directives to the foreign ministers taking part in the Damascus meetings were also very useful. He added that views were exchanged on the various issues.

Shaykh Ibn-Mubarak said the Syrian stand, as expressed by President Hafiz al-Asad, is honorable and emanates from Syria's fixed and principled stands. He said: We in Bahrain, both government and people, greatly appreciate President al-Asad's pan-Arab stances and his constructive role in the issues involving the Arab nation, particularly his handling of the complicated and difficult problems that arose after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. He expressed his pleasure at the significant results achieved during Damascus meetings, which culminated in the Damascus declaration.

He added that the Damascus declaration worked out new plans for Arab solidarity and stood for the true collective Arab action. He expressed his belief that these steps will be followed by others on the road of cooperation in the various security and economic fields. He added that the declaration can be regarded as the nucleus for new Arab solidarity and for a revived Arab cooperation.

On the Arab foreign ministers' meeting with the European troika delegation, Shaykh Ibn-Mubarak said: During that meeting, we sensed a considerable interest in this Arab grouping.

Canadian Defense Minister on Gulf Security

NC0703200491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH)—Canadian National Defense Minister Willian McKnight has expressed his extreme pleasure at visiting the Arabian Gulf region along with Chief of Staff General [passage indistinct].

On the possibility of Canada's joining a peacekeeping force for the region, the minister said no such approach has been made to his country and that the Canadian forces are now preparing to leave for home. He said, however, that it is up to the countries of the region to build their power through mutual cooperation in order to look after their own security. He hoped relations between Canada and Bahrain would continue to develop.

Speaking at a news conference held in Manama this evening, the minister said if Canada is asked to join a defense arrangement for the region, it will carry out its duty as the situation warrants. He noted that Canada is not a superpower, but it joined the alliance out of a sense of duty.

On relations between Canada and states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the minister said these relations, which have been built within a brief period, may be developed in all the military and economic spheres [words indistinct].

Asked whether a coalition of forces grouping Egypt, Syria and the GCC states can handle regional security on its own, he said this is a matter for the countries concerned. Should the need arise for further security, the matter will be looked into, the minister added. [passage omitted]

On whether a buffer force could be stationed on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, he said this is up to the Kuwaiti Government to decide. [passage omitted]

Italian Defense Minister Departs 7 Mar

NC0703130291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Muscat, 7 Mar (WAKH)—Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni left Muscat this morning after a two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During his visit, he conveyed a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman from Italian President Francesco Cossiga.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Holds News Conference 7 Mar

LD0703195991 London KUNA in Arabic 1712 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Mar (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, said here that the Kuwaiti Government has begun immediately upon its return to pursue a policy of reconstruction in all fields after the destruction inflicted by the invading Iraqi forces. He pointed out that this policy is being implemented in cooperation with sister and friendly countries.

Shaykh al-'Abdallah, who is considered the martial law ruler of Kuwait, added in his first news conference after his return to Kuwait last Tuesday—following its liberation from the claws of the occupying Iraqi forces—that the Iraqi forces which occupied Kuwait on 2 August "had carried out sabotage on a wide scale, expelled many Kuwaitis from their homes and country, and plundered government establishments and private property." He explained that immediately after their occupation of Kuwait the Iraqi forces had tortured steadfast Kuwaitis and carried out acts of oppression, terrorism, torture, and executions on a wide scale.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah praised the steadfastness of the Kuwaiti people despite all the crimes which the Iraqi forces committed. He singled out Kuwaiti women whose actions during the occupation he described as being brave and heroic, pointing out that Kuwaiti women participated in many of the [anti-occupation] actions, especially within the ranks of the Kuwaiti resistance. Replying to a question about the role of Kuwaiti women in the forthcoming political scene, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said this issue is the center of attention of us all, adding that this issue is among the important issues which will be discussed during the next few weeks. Regarding the civilian prisoners who were arrested by the Iraqi occupation authorities during the time these authorities were in Kuwait, the heir apparent and prime minister said that they [the prisoners] number between 5,500 and 6,000, and that the Kuwaiti authorities have been in constant touch with the International [Committee of the] Red Cross in an effort to release these prisoners. He expressed hope that they will be released during the next two days.

The heir apparent and prime minister said that the attitude of those who stood with Saddam by giving weapons and media support will be remembered by every Kuwaiti. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim denied reports about a campaign of arrests among the sons of the Palestinian community in Kuwait. He said that the Kuwaiti police have arrested a very small number of Palestinians because they committed crimes during the Iraqi military presence in Kuwait, adding that the Kuwaiti authorities are investigating all of them [those arrested] and they will be subject to prosecution and subsequent trial. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah praised the stance of some Palestinians inside Kuwait and their cooperation with the sons of Kuwait, noting that this contributed to the liberation of Kuwait.

During his press conference he also expressed his thanks to the custodian of the two holy mosques, the U.S. President, and all heads and peoples of the states that participated in the liberation of Kuwait. He said: I am happy to register my thanks and gratitude, in the name of my brothers—the sons of my country—to the heads of state and peoples of the countries that helped us during our crisis, especially the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz, who threw the gates of the [Saudi] Kingdom wide open [for us] and for the facilities and capabilities he offered to the Kuwaitis who resided in Saudi Arabia and are still there.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent thanked U.S. President George Bush, the friendly American people, and the American Armed Forces for "standing by us, for helping in the liberation of our country, and rescuing it from the Iraqi occupation."

Answering a question on the democratic future of Kuwait, he said: "We here in Kuwait have been living for hundreds of years a life full of fraternity, love, solidarity, and dedication in serving our beloved country, and like our fathers and grandfathers, have cooperated and dealt with each other. This generation will continue to implement the customs of the fathers and grandfathers." He explained that "we do not live in a dictatorship," and stressed that "we believe in consultation and the Shura." He said the attitude of those who supported Saddam through the provision of weapons and information media support will be remembered by every Kuwaiti. He went on to say that he hopes King Husayn will take a clear and frank attitude to show Jordan's stand against the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its people, adding that this applies to all states which assisted Iraq in its aggression against Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah denied any contacts between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities in various spheres, pointing out that the number of Kuwaiti prisoners inside

Baghdad prisons is 5,500-6,000 prisoners. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah welcomed the visit of U.S. President George Bush, which comes in response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, and is in accordance with a promise from the U.S. President to visit Kuwait after liberation. He expressed his hope that the visit will take place soon so that he can see for himself the destruction caused by the Iraqi invasion.

He pointed out that martial law rule depends on many things, and when the government sees that security has been established there will be no need for the continuation of martial law. But if we find that the country requires the extension of martial law we will not hesitate to do so.

His highness denied reports about cases of torturing Palestinians in Kuwait and pointed out that they are mere rumors and incorrect. He confirmed that a small group of Palestinians cooperated with the Iraqi occupation authorities in committing actions and crimes that are being investigated, and they will be handed over to the general prosecution and then to the courts. In this context, His highness called on the Palestinians to feel assured and not to believe the rumors. He confirmed his appreciation of the attitudes of some Palestinians and their cooperation with the sons of the Kuwaiti people in defeating the sinful Iraqi aggression. He pointed out that the law "will be applied to all without discrimination." He added that despite the attitude of some Palestinian organizations' leaderships—which surprised the Kuwaiti people—Kuwait will not hesitate to provide material and moral assistance to the Palestinian people. He said that Kuwait, which has in the past provided much assistance to the Palestinian people, "will not stop helping our Palestinian brothers in the occupied land, from the premise of its sensing of its pan-Arab duty toward the Palestinian brothers."

Concerning the number of the oil wells burned by the Iraqi regime in Kuwait, his highness said that it ranged between 500 to 600 wells. He explained that the many fire-fighting experts who were contracted to put out the burning wells will do so as soon as possible. Shaykh Sa'd hoped that some of those wells will begin production in the next few weeks. He explained that it will take months to put out the fires at some of the other fields.

About the return of parliamentary life, his highness said: "I would like to answer this in all candor and clarity so that there can be no ambiguity about the return of parliamentary life." He added: "When the Kuwaiti brothers gathered at the Popular Congress, which was held in Jeddah on 13 October, everyone listened to the amir's speech emphasizing the expansion of popular participation." He mentioned that his highness the amir "pointed to attachment to the 1962 Constitution." Shaykh Sa'd reaffirmed that he would not like "to add anything to what the amir said at the Popular Congress."

About setting a date for holding general elections, Shaykh Sa'd explained: "That depends on many things, among them is the establishment of security so that the appropriate time can be chosen." He said he means to "make these things audible to all who try to spread doubt and tendentiousness in an attempt to undermine the internal front because they know that through fragmenting it, they can achieve their objectives."

On compensation for citizens who suffered looting and robbery by the Iraqi occupation forces, his highness said the subject will be among the important issues to be discussed by the Council of Ministers.

On whether the government will sell its foreign investment assets to finance future projects, he explained that there is a study being prepared by an expert committee to define future outlines of the Kuwaiti economy. He added that the government has taken some sums from the reserves to finance reconstruction projects.

Replying to another question his highness the heir apparent and prime minister stressed the danger to Kuwait and to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states of the Iraqi regime continuing in power, pointing out that Kuwait will work with its sisters in the GCC to check any attempted Iraqi aggression in the future. He added that Kuwait will, in cooperation with its sisters within the GCC and with fraternal and friendly states, work for the establishment of security in the region. Regarding the method of cooperation among the GCC member-states in this regard, he pointed out that he cannot specify this now, noting that the leaders of the GCC member-states will be discussing that. Shaykh Sa'd described the [Damascus] agreement concluded among the GCC member-states, Egypt, and Syria, as being a good step along the road to security cooperation. He pointed out that if one or more [other] states think it is in its or their interest to reach agreement with these [eight] states, then this issue will be studied by the foreign ministers of the eight states which were the signatories in Damascus yesterday to the document guaranteeing security arrangements in the region.

Regarding the attempt to assassinate Mr. Hamad al-Ju'an, his highness pointed out that he became aware of the attempt during the time he was in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and contacted the chief of staff of the National Guard, Major-General Khalid Budi, who was in Kuwait, and asked him to visit Mr. al-Ju'an in the hospital and convey to him his greetings and best wishes for a speedy recovery. He also asked him to pursue the criminal or criminals and apprehend them no matter what. His highness reaffirmed the role of the sons of the ruling family in serving Kuwait and the sons of the Kuwaiti people, pointing out that that is within their duties to their homeland and brother citizens.

Leaders Discuss Security, Prisoner Exchange

LD0703185991 London KUNA in Arabic 1747 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 7 March, KUNA—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Kuwaiti, heir apparent and prime minister, chaired a meeting this morning with the central command for security affairs. The meeting was attended by the commander of the national guard, the minister of defense, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the minister of justice and legal affairs, and the under secretary of the ministry of justice and legal affairs.

Several issues were discussed during the meeting. These were related to strengthening measures concerning the protection and safety of citizens and residents and speeding up the operation of providing an atmosphere of security and stability in all parts of the country.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister affirmed during the meeting the concern and eagerness of the government to speed up the completion of the exchange of prisoners. He called on officials in all parties concerned to adopt all steps liable to secure the release of all prisoners and detainees and to arrange measures for their reception. This will take place in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and will be done in a way to secure their safety and health and ensure their arrival among their families and relatives as soon as possible. He prayed to God Almighty to speed up their release so that they can be reunited on the good soil of Kuwait.

International Red Cross POW Talks Reported

LD0703153591 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] announced today that talks on the exchange of POWs have begun in Riyadh between the Kuwaiti and Iraqi authorities and representatives of the international coalition. The committee, under whose auspices the talks are being held, said that the development comes after the acceptance of all the parties concerned to an invitation issued by the committee in regard to this issue. The aim is to specify the measures for exchanging all POWs and civilian detainees.

The ICRC said that the Iraqi delegation arrived in Riyadh today on board a Red Cross aircraft.

On the other hand, the committee said that a five-man ICRC team left Kuwait for Basra, in southern Iraq, today to provide humanitarian needs there. It said that a convoy carrying 3.5 tonnes of medicines and 3 tonnes of food is on its way to the southern Iraqi town.

Iraq Releases Prisoners to ICRC

LD0803115591 London KUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Mar (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Human Rights Committee has received here today 1181 Kuwaiti prisoners from the Red Cross following their release by the Iraqi forces last night.

The Iraqi authorities released 1181 Kuwaitis last night, after having arrested them a few days before the commencement of the ground war to liberate Kuwait.

The prisoners were taken to al-Jahra' hospital in northern Kuwait for medical examinations, as they showed signs of intense exhaustion. The prisoners say they were detained in the halls of the popular army training camp in al-Basrah, and that they suffered from cold, hunger, and shortages of food and drink, in addition to maltreatment by Saddam Husayn's soldiers. The prisoners arrived after they had been handed over to the Red Cross which, in turn, handed them over to the Kuwaiti Human Rights Committee.

It is worth noting that there are civilian and military Kuwaiti prisoners who are still detained in Iraq.

Government Resumes Constitutional Tasks

LD0703213991 London KUNA in Arabic 1953 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] United Nations, 7 Mar (KUNA)—Kuwait officially informed the international community today that its government has resumed its constitutional tasks in the Kuwaiti capital after seven months of Iraqi occupation. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, said in a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar: "I am pleased and honored to inform you that the government of Kuwait has resumed state tasks and is running the nation's affairs from the city of Kuwait." The message was distributed as a UN document. Shaykh Sabah said in his message: "I would like to take the opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to you personally and the UN system as a whole for the prominent role played in defeating the Iraqi aggression and ending the occupation of Kuwait." He went on to add that "the participation of the UN system in the restoration of the integrity of Kuwait and the return of legitimate government to the country has reaffirmed the purposes and objectives of the [UN] charter and the role of the organization in the preservation of world peace and security.

Oman

Italian Defense Minister Meets Official

NC0603165991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Muscat, 6 Mar (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a written message from Italian President Francesco Cossiga. Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received the message today during a meeting with Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni, who is currently visiting here.

The talks during the meeting focused on the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of promoting bilateral cooperation. The two officials also reviewed the current situation after the liberation of Kuwait, [word indistinct] to strengthen the pillars of security and stability in the region, and issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Fast Return of POW's, Detainees Agreed Upon

LD0703220191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh 7 Mar (SPA)—Delegates of the coalition forces and Iraq met here today under the auspices of the International Committee for the Red Cross [ICRC]. The ICRC delegation which attended the meeting said the talks were conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere. The delegation added that after six hours of talks, the delegates from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain, France, Kuwait, and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding in which an agreement was reached on implementing the return, with the maximum speed possible, of all POW's and civilian detainees who were captured or detained since 12 August 1990. The delegation pointed out that the memorandum specifies the principles and practical forms of the repatriation operation in accordance with the conditions of the 1949 Geneva Convention. The statement pointed out that the delegates met today to discuss and arrange the measures for the repatriation of all POW's and civilian detainees, and that the talks were attended by officials from the ICRC in Riyadh and Baghdad under the chairmanship of the ICRC's delegate general in the Middle East and North Africa, Angelo Gnaedinger. He pointed out that the Iraqi delegation, which is accompanied by officials from the ICRC, has returned to Baghdad on board an aircraft chartered by the ICRC.

UK Prime Minister Major Departs 7 Mar

LD0703143691 Riyadh SPA in English 1216 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 7, SPA—British Prime Minister John Major left here last night after a visit to Saudi Arabia.

He was seen off by Hisham Nazir, the petroleum and mineral resources minister and acting planning minister and senior officials.

U.S. Responsibilities in Gulf Settlement Stressed

PM0703162091 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 91 p 9

[Editorial: "After The War, The Battle For Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East tour is of exceptional importance for many reasons. It comes after the Gulf war, that is, after the most serious and complex crisis in contemporary Arab history and perhaps in the history of the region. It is no exaggeration to say that the region's picture after that earthquake is certainly different from what it was before. What happened was not a passing misunderstanding, nor was it a border incident. It was much more than that. The seriousness of the crisis transcends the direct losses suffered and the rupture caused by the sedition. It raises many questions about ways of ensuring that this kind of destructive adventure does not happen again

Baker's tour also comes after the new international detente has faced and passed its most difficult test. At no point in the crisis did the Soviet Union retreat from its support for the UN Security Council resolutions. Saddam Husayn failed to shake the U.S.-Soviet accord. The war was waged, above all, to implement the UN resolutions and to foil an attempt to establish a fait accompli in violation of UN principles. The fact that the United States is playing a major and decisive part in the new international order doubles its responsibilities in the postwar phase, and the same applies to the United Nations itself.

Perhaps that is why the U.S. Administration promptly declared its conviction that permanent peace in the Middle East means that all the region's problems must be tackled. President George Bush has spoken of a "bold new idea," and the EC has embarked on activities that will ultimately clearly define a concept that will lead to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The postwar era requires the highest level of consultation and cooperation among the parties concerned with establishing peace and stability in the region. Yesterday's Damascus meeting of the foreign ministers of eight Arab states is seen in that context. These were the states which participated in the operation for the restoration of Kuwait. They realize that the war was only one phase and that what is needed now is victory in the equally difficult battle for peace. The Arab generations which have witnessed that earthquake have a right to witness the establishment of relations and links that will guarantee that nothing like or equal to what happened can ever happen again.

United Arab Emirates

French Chief of Staff Arrives for Talks

NC0703153691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Mar (WAKH)—French Chief of Staff General Schmitt arrived in Abu Dhabi this afternoon with a delegation.

During his visit, the French officer will talk with top officials on the Gulf situation in the aftermath of the liberation of Kuwait.

Italian Defense Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi

NC0503094291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni and the delegation accompanying him left Abu Dhabi this morning at the end of a visit of several days to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

He was seen off by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the armed forces; military commanders and a number of armed forces senior officers; and Italian Ambassador to the UAE Giovanni Ferrero.

Yemen

Ambassador to Austria Meets With Foreign Minister

EA0603211491 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Yesterday Dr. Sa'id Sharaf Badr, Yemen's ambassador to Austria, met Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock [words indistinct]. They reviewed bilateral cooperation between their friendly countries and how to strengthen relations in addition to reviewing developments in the Arab arena and the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

U.S., PRC Envoys Meet Foreign Minister

EA0603211891 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Today Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani met the U.S. and Chinese ambassadors to Yemen. They reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

Saddam Chairs 7 Mar RCC, Party Meeting

NC0703230491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2244 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting yesterday [7 March] attended by several members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, as well as by some specialists from state bodies.

During the meeting, they studied how to develop and speed up the process of providing citizens with services.

Amnesty for Deserters Extended

NC0803105691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council (RCC) has issued the following decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. RCC Decree No. 60, dated 8 March 1991.

With reference to RCC Decree No. 57, issued on 4 March, based on the fact that the transportation means could not meet the transportation requests of the deserters, absentees, and those who failed to report for military service during the days of the amnesty as stipulated in the above RCC decree, and based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decrees the following:

1. The amnesty period will be extended by another seven days as of Saturday, 9 March and until 15 March 1991. In a separate announcement, the Ministry of Defense will define the places, towns, and formations to which those concerned should report.
2. The ministers and organs concerned will implement this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Moreover, the Ministry of Defense has issued the following announcement:

In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate.

Based on RCC Decree No. 60 dated 8 March, we have decided to specify the following assembly points for returned deserters and those who failed to report to their units, provided that they report to their units within seven days, as of the morning of 9 March:

1. The infantry specialized training center no. 6 [word indistinct] for personnel affiliated with the 1st Army Corps.
2. The Diyalah first basic training center in al-Mansuriyah for personnel affiliated with the 2nd Army Corps.
3. Baghdad's second basic training center in Salah al-Din for personnel affiliated with the 3d Army Corps.
4. The armored institute in Salah al-Din for personnel affiliated with the 4th Army Corps.
5. The Irbil command post—Irbil camp—for personnel affiliated with the 5th Army Corps.
6. The sports training school in Nahrawan for personnel affiliated with the 6th Army Corps.
7. The anti-tank missiles command post in Nahrawan for personnel affiliated with the 7th Army Corps.
8. The Republican Guard institute in Suwayrah for the units and formations of the Republican Guard.

Nation's Allegiance to President Reiterated

NC0803103991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0844 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] When the lowly boast of their disgrace and when they bask in the glow of the U.S. flag and brag about leasing their armies to the foreigner and their Arabism to the invaders, and when the rulers are lined up on the stage where there is no place for honest Arabs, then we affirm our affiliation to our will and leadership, and renew our allegiance to Arabism and manliness because we belong to our spiritualism and history, because we do not change colors or our identity, and because we do not stop using our minds.

Where does affiliation stand now, and to which homeland? Our pride is that we belong to a homeland that is made up of all the Arabs because it is the homeland of the Iraqi and Arab will, because it is outside the circle of disgrace, because it is not ruled by a subservient ruler, and because its army, the army of Iraq is an army for Iraq and for the Arabs and not a reserve army for the U.S., French, and British forces of invasion and not an army that supports the Zionist army in military tasks. Our glory is that we belong to a leader who only bows to God, a leader who possesses all the qualities of chivalry, manliness, and honor, in addition to courage, determination, and gallantry that all Arabs hope to have.

It is no coincidence that all the barking by the enemy media has failed to find anything that tarnishes the person of mujahid Saddam Husayn. It is also no coincidence that the agents have not found anything to criticize Saddam Husayn with other than the fact that he is not like them and does not stand in the midst of their subservient ranks. Saddam Husayn is the master of his decisions and the decisions of his nation.

Our pride is that we neither said yes to racist Bush, nor did we offer him any concessions with respect to our spiritualism, our Iraq, or our Arabism. This has taken place when heads of superpowers have bowed their heads, when politicians have closed their eyes, and when states have become deaf so that vice and subservience could be peddled.

We take pride in our dignity and our Army because we have neither leased our Arabism and religion, nor have we basked in the glow of the U.S. flag. We are also not

seeking a security system in participation with Tel Aviv and under the leadership of the White House.

The lowly proceed toward disgrace while we remain loyal to ourselves, our spiritualism, our Iraq, and our Arabism. We now affirm that we abide by our own decision-making and renew the pledge to our leader, Abu-'Adi' [Saddam Husayn], you represent all our traits of Arabism and manliness, and our affiliation to you is all that we will bequeath to our sons and grandsons. Can we accept bequeathing them anything but honor?

Strength, Vigor To Be Regained Under Saddam

NC0803090991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—In today's editorial, AL-QADISIYAH said that the coming days will prove to the enemies that all of their plots and calculations are mere illusions and that their barbarous conspiracy against Iraq and its mujahidin people appear real only in their eyes.

The paper said: Iraq will regain its strength and vigor under President Saddam Husayn's leadership and the banners of progress will rise in Iraqi skies. The Palestinian intifadah will continue to remind the world of America's new and fake international legitimacy and of the facts about the unjust aggression against Iraq.

The paper noted that the Iraqi reconstruction operation will continue to be an absolute aim of the Iraqi people and Army, who will not be deviated from this course by any new forms of suspect alliances or desperate imperialist moves pursued by the Western-American forces of aggression. The paper emphasized that the decision to reconstruct is based on pure national efforts and on Iraq's firm will, which no one can undermine. The paper pointed out that the Arab people will actively confront the suspect plot against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper, organ of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, underlined the aims which the American-Atlantic alliance sought to realize saying that when the American aggression failed to realize these aims through war as a result of Iraq's steadfastness and firm challenge to the aims of this unjust aggression, the war criminal, America, together with its Western allies and the traitorous Arab rulers such as Husni and Fahd, tried to realize them under the shadow of occupation of the region and by having the Arab symbols of treason submit and conform to this occupation.

Baghdad To Release Journalists, 2,000 Kuwaitis

LD0703134791 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Iraq will hand over to the Red Cross 2,000 Kuwaitis who were deported from the emirate during the Gulf war and more than 20 missing journalists. The organization is currently transporting medical equipment to al-Basrah, and will bring everybody back probably tomorrow. This is the first time that Baghdad has released Kuwaiti civilians taken hostage during the Iraqi occupation of the emirate, and this is the first news we have concerning the journalists, more than 30 [as heard] who disappeared last Sunday in southern Iraq.

Party Official Confers With Al-Basrah Governor

NC0803103391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the southern organizational office, met with the al-Basrah governor and a number of the governorate's officials yesterday. The conferees discussed the means to offer public services to the citizens and adopted the necessary measures in this regard, in accordance with the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur praised the steadfastness and valor displayed by the sons of al-Basrah in defense of Iraq. He also commended their zeal in reconstructing what has been destroyed by the aggressors under the banner of the victorious leader Saddam Husayn.

Army Officer Says Saddam Downfall Expected

LD0603211891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Jeddah, 6 Mar (SPA)—Major General Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib, former deputy chief of staff in the Iraqi Army, said that "Saddam Husayn's end was expected from the beginning, because the stand of the Iraqi regime was based on false claims."

He added in a statement to the newspaper 'UKAZ published today: "All offered thanks to God when the Kuwaiti people recovered their country and their freedom."

He went on to say: "We Iraqis are brothers of Kuwaitis, and we very much regret the bloody events which have taken place in the last seven months."

He explained that all Iraqi people are innocent of the crimes committed by Saddam Husayn against fraternal Kuwait.

He noted that the world knows that these practices were imposed on the Iraqi people by its leadership and regime. He said that "the Iraqi people themselves have been suffering from these practices over a period of 22 years—the period of the regime of the tyrant Saddam and his clique."

Maj. Gen. Hasan Mustafa al-Naqib affirmed that Saddam Husayn finds great pleasure in spilling Iraqi

blood and has no value for the lives of the Iraqis. He does not think much of the blood and sacrifices of the people of Iraq.

He explained that the departure of Saddam Husayn from Kuwait was not an abdication or a retreat—he was evicted by force and against his will, because he transgressed against a peaceful neighboring state. He said: "All that Saddam Husayn said about Kuwait has no basis in truth."

The former Iraqi deputy chief of staff said that Saddam's crimes against the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic nation, and the tragedies, destruction, sabotage, and the aggression against the people, their wealth, and their lives throughout the years of his rule are crystal clear.

He pointed out that Saddam Husayn relies on protecting himself in Iraq because he knows that the Iraqi people will not forgive or forget the executioner who has brought these calamities upon them.

He said: The Iraqi people will put Saddam Husayn on trial for all his crimes and treachery. He added that the Iraqi people realized that Saddam was leading them to an unjust war and that he is a criminal who launched an aggression against brother Arab Muslims without any right or justification.

He explained that the negatives inflicted by Saddam Husayn on Iraq represent the concern of every Iraqi; the Iraqi citizen is now looking forward to the removal of the distortion caused by that regime to Iraq's image.

Maj. Gen. al-Naqib said that the Iraqi people aspire to Iraq becoming an oasis of goodness, amity, and accord with all our Arab and Muslim brothers, and with the world as a whole.

He stressed that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has led to a sifting in the Arab world which has separated friend from foe, and has made it clear who stands with the Iraqi people and who stands with their tyranical ruler, who is against the interests of the Iraqi people.

Clandestine Radio Urges Struggle Against Saddam

TA0703195991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that he has received a clandestine radio station whose spokesmen described themselves as a group of free Iraqis. They announced in their broadcast that they have set up an organization of the democratic Iraqi forces and called upon Iraqi Army personnel to join the struggle for the ouster of Saddam Husayn.

AFP Cites Rebel Reports of Fighting in Baghdad

NC0703115291 Paris AFP in English 1124 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Nicosia, March 7 (AFP)—The key southern Iraqi port of al-Basrah is still in the hands of insurgent forces and disturbances have spread to Baghdad, Iraqi Shiite resistance groups said Thursday. [passage omitted]

The spokesman backed Iranian press reports that rival factions of the ruling Iraqi Ba'th Party had clashed in al-Tikrit, birthplace of President Husayn.

Another Shiite group, known as the Organisation of Islamic Action, said in Damascus that "violent combat" had been taking place in al-Basrah since early Wednesday, and that "a battalion of the Iraqi Army has joined the resistance."

The communique added that the insurrection had reached Baghdad, "where fighting has taken place with the forces of the Iraqi regime."

Also in Damascus, Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan, told AFP that Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq had captured "43 Iraqi officers from the 24th division, including its commander, General 'Abd al-Majid 'Abbas Wahib." [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders Set Up Joint Action Committee

LD0703220591 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2130 GMT 7 Mar 91

[By PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent Tom McMullan]

[Text] Britain today offered "moral support and encouragement" to Iraqi opposition leaders who have formed a joint action committee to work for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn.

One opponent warned that Saddam could use chemical weapons against them—and might even have done so.

The five leaders, who live in various parts of the Middle East outside Iraq, met Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg, the first time opposition chiefs have been received by a minister. Previous contact was through officials. They were Mr Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, 'Iraqi Kurdistan Front; Mr Fakhri Karim, Iraqi Communists; Mr Muhammad Muhammad 'Ali, Supreme Assembly for Islamic Revolution in Iraq; Mr Muhammad Rashid al-Shaykh Radi, Iraqi Ba'thists; and Dr Muwaffaq Baqir al Rubay'i, Islamic al-Daw'ah Party.

British officials made clear that Britain was not plotting with the opposition leaders and the choice of Iraqi government must be up to the Iraqi people. However, Britain will maintain sanctions against Iraq—except for food and medical aid—to increase the isolation of Saddam's regime.

At a news conference after the meeting, Dr Rubay'i said: "We are concerned that Saddam Husayn will use chemical weapons against those now opposing his regime, and may even already have done so. The minister indicated his readiness to take up the use of chemical weapons at the United Nations. The opposition to the regime inside

Iraq is spontaneous and is not confined to any one area of the country. It is not true to say that the republican guard has fully regained control of al-Basrah, the southern port."

He said a link was maintained with the rebels through a relay station in southern Iraq. The rebels had only light weapons, mainly handguns and hand grenades, but some Iraqi troops had defected with their weapons and joined them, he added. It was important that the alliance made clear Saddam was an international pariah.

Dr Rubay'i said: "George Bush urged the Iraqi people to rise up against Saddam Husayn. They are now doing that. But they are being killed."

Republican Guards Said Joining Revolt

NC0703174191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Tehran—Sources in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq have stressed that more cities are falling to the Iraqi popular forces [al-quwwat al-sha'biyah al-'iraqiyah] and that they have reached al-Tikrit and Mosul.

The same sources noted the failure of the Iraqi security authorities to confront the popular uprising, a fact that led the regime to sack the interior minister. The sources said that a large number of Republican Guard personnel had joined the uprising and that units of officers removed their military ranks, despite the pay raise the Iraqi regime gave to the Republican Guards to ensure their loyalty to the head of the regime.

The same sources added that the popular uprising appointed a governor in al-'Amarah as well as committees to be in charge of the other Iraqi cities under its control. [passage omitted]

People who recently arrived at al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah stressed that a popular revolt against the Iraqi regime is expanding and spreading to most Iraqi cities and governorates. They added that the Iraqi regime's authorities lost control of the situation and are no longer capable of calming the Iraqi people's revolt caused by the tragic conditions resulting from the destructive war triggered by the ruling regime in Baghdad. They spoke of the abominable practices to which the Iraqi people are subjected in terms of the shelling of homes and murder of civilians to terminate the popular antiregime uprising.

Opposition Group Issues Statement on Uprising

NC0703105391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Lebanon office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has affirmed that the uprising in Iraq is one led by the masses. It dismissed reports about differences affecting the Iraqi opposition and said that the uprising is a revolution against Saddam's regime.

SAIRI warned that the regime, which has lost control of the towns of uprising, might carry out all kinds of revengeful and malicious acts. SAIRI expressed the desire to improve the mainstays of stability in Iraq which constitute the chief guarantee of stability in the region.

In its statement, SAIRI urged the international community—bodies and organizations—not to allow the Iraqi regime to represent the oppressed Iraqi people and to trust the Iraqi opposition with this matter.

Uprising in Al-Sulaymaniyah Reported

NC0703183391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Heroic masses of Kurdistan. Brave Iraqi masses. We announce to you the glad tidings. Yes, we announce to you the glad tidings. The heroic city of al-Sulaymaniyah, the city of sacrifice, has risen up against the dictatorial ruling clique in Baghdad. It has responded to the call of the popular uprising [intifadah] which has spread in several towns of Kurdistan and Iraq. Masses of all the towns of Kurdistan, we announce to you the glad tidings. The city of al-Sulaymaniyah has risen up in revolt.

Helicopters Strafe Rebels

NC0703184791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Dear listeners, here are the initial reports we have received on the uprising [intifadah] in the city of al-Sulaymaniyah:

Today, 7 March, the city of al-Sulaymaniyah revolted against the dictatorial ruling clique. The angry masses in the city clashed with the henchmen and agents of the fascist ruling clique. They attacked the centers and hideouts of the 'Aflaqists [reference to Michel 'Aflaq, founder of the Ba'th party]. After realizing that they had lost control, the criminal fascist authorities in the city sought the help of helicopters, which strafed unarmed civilians on the streets and in residential quarters.

The rebellious masses in al-Sulaymaniyah continue to clash with the dictator's henchmen. Furious battles were continuing when this report was prepared.

Sources Cited on 'Uprising' in North, South

NC0803102791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Islamic sources within the Iraqi opposition have affirmed that the Iraqi uprising has continued its march to free the will of the Iraqi people from the control of Saddam and his regime. They added that the popular forces have tightened their grip on the cities of al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, al-Samawah, al-Diwaniyah, al-Najaf, Karbala', al-Hillah, and al-Kut. They went on to

say that the revolutionaries confronted all the attempts made by the regime's troops to regain control of some of the liberated cities.

These sources indicated that large numbers of the Iraqi Army joined the revolutionaries. They added that the al-'Amarah air base also joined the masses which are staging the uprising. The sources pointed out that the Kurdish masses in northern Iraq controlled some cities in northern Iraq.

Press reports on what is taking place in southern Iraq said that the masses staging the uprising there stormed a military base in al-Basrah, seized 50 tanks, and captured 37 officers, including two major generals. The masses also attacked government buildings in al-Najaf and Karbala'. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement saying: Those staging the uprising in al-Basrah stormed an air base there. A missile base, 50 tanks, and electronic equipment used by the military have been seized. The statement added that the uprising being staged in northern Iraq caused the 24th regiment to surrender. Its commander Brigadier General Muwaffaq Bashshar Mahmud has been taken prisoner. Besides, 37 officers have also been taken prisoner. Meanwhile, observers affirmed that the Baghdad government has gotten into a very difficult position now that the uprising has extended to areas in northern and southern Iraq.

Opposition Party Head Views Postwar Conditions

PM0703161191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 91 p 5

[Report on interview with Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i, member of the Politburo of Iraq's Islamic Call Party, by Ibrahim Nawwar in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] The Iraqi opposition is currently facing its most serious challenges, not only due to the continuing split in their ranks but also because of the burdens imposed by Saddam's maneuvers designed to avert a rout that would eradicate him and his regime from Iraq. This was the main point in the interview with Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i (Abu-'Ali), member of the Politburo of the Islamic Call Party, the largest of the Iraqi opposition parties, and representative of the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action Committee in London.

I asked Dr. al-Rubay'i: Given its current differences the Iraqi opposition seems to act as if it has actually accomplished the task of toppling Saddam Husayn, although Saddam is still there and trying to stay in power by all means and maneuvers. So how can matters be straightened out so that the Iraqi opposition can pay attention to its real responsibilities as opposed to its differences?

Dr. Abu-'Ali said that the Iraqi opposition, which has suffered from division and exile for a long time, has started to move down the road to unity, which is a difficult and long road. We realize that the rapid developments prompt us to act responsibly. Regardless of Saddam's maneuvers, there are four fundamental principles from which the Iraqi opposition is proceeding in this stage: First, the need to topple Saddam and his regime. And we will not deviate from this task.

Second, the need to end the war in the Gulf. Then the foreign forces must leave the region.

Third, to liberate the will of the Iraqi people from any restrictions.

Fourth, the interests of the Iraqi people as a whole must be placed above any party or personal interests.

Dr. Abu-'Ali said that within the framework of these principles the Call Party's view is summed up in the need to work at four levels:

—to unify the Iraqi opposition as a whole, especially the Islamic opposition;

—we respect the Damascus formula (that is, the formula agreed in Damascus at the end of last year) but, nevertheless, we are ready to consider any other formula. In our view, we believe that the Damascus formula should be extended to accommodate the other formulas;

—to call for the convening of a general national conference in Beirut next month by the Joint Action Committee's General Secretariat in Damascus. That secretariat represents 17 Iraqi opposition parties and organizations. Independent Iraqi opposition groups and figures that did not participate in signing the Damascus agreement should be invited to attend that conference;

—As an Islamic opposition we have a role in spreading the message of Islam, and this does not require parties or organizations, since it is every Muslim's duty. However, our duty is to improve the Islamic opposition's image and reintroduce it to the world in a civilized, reasonable, and acceptable way. We do not want to be seen by the world as terrorists who do not belong to the age in which we live. And we have to a large extent succeeded in that. The Islamic Call Party is now known as an Iraqi opposition organization that calls for democracy and the establishment of a constitutional system in Iraq. Whereas in the past our party used to be described as a pro-Iran terrorist party. [passage omitted]

[Nawwar] But how can the Iraqi opposition be an influential party to the momentum of destroying Saddam, instead of merely waiting for his downfall?

[Al-Rubay'i] We are actually trying to be an influential party, despite all the difficulties—and first and foremost the difficulty of making contacts—namely by working at three levels: First, we neither support nor oppose legitimacy, but are trying to influence the international decision by removing the fuse of instability in the region, that is, Saddam. Second, reactivating our masses inside Iraq. Third, maintaining strong relations with our people

by providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the war inside the country or to those fleeing the country. [passage omitted]

[Nawwar] Let us return to the present situation in the region. How do you see the future of the political system in Iraq?

[Al-Rubay'i] As I said earlier, the fundamental principle in our position is to remove Saddam and the symbols of his regime. And I do not believe that Saddam will stay in power.

[Nawwar] But Saddam is trying to prolong his rule by offering a coalition with some opposition tendencies, especially the Islamic tendency. Would you agree to a coalition with Saddam if he invites you?

[Al-Rubay'i] As far as the Islamic Call Party is concerned, such a coalition is unacceptable, whether presently or in the foreseeable or unforeseeable future. But some Islamic groups may, under international pressures, agree to participate with Saddam. Our conditions for responding to any invitation to participate in our country's political future are: First, Saddam must step down; second, the announcement of free general elections.

Saddam has assassinated both the Arab and world orders, so he cannot be allowed to continue. [passage omitted]

Repair, National Cultivation Plans Discussed

NC0803101091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh, minister of agriculture and irrigation, has stated that the ministry's cadres are making extraordinary efforts to repair the vital irrigation installations, like tanks and networks, which were targeted by the aggression to obstruct the agricultural process and sabotage the national economy.

In an interview published by AL-JUMHURIYAH today, the minister said: Despite the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq, farmers, peasants, and the ministry employees have shouldered their role in achieving food security and securing success for the national [word indistinct] campaign to break the economic embargo imposed on the country.

Speaking about the next harvest, the minister of agriculture and irrigation said the ministry is working out an ambitious plan for harvesting the next barley and wheat crops as of mid-May.

He noted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation made arduous efforts to supply the Iraqi cities with vegetables and fruits during the the Atlantic-American aggression.

Touching on the national cultivation campaign launched in August last year, the minister said it involved many benefits for farmers and peasants. Of these he mentioned that crop supply prices were increased, the chemical fertilizers necessary for the soil were supplied, and that reserve equipment, tractors, and agricultural tools were provided.

He pointed out that the plan involved the cultivation of reclaimed and semi-reclaimed land in all Iraqi cities, as well as the farming of previously uncultivated lands.

Paper Views Importance of Construction

NC0803090691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses the importance of construction and the huge sincere efforts it requires to thwart all the enemies' wagers.

The paper says that during these new days of construction we are demonstrating the significance of the real belief that work is our greatest struggle and that our will is stronger than challenges and more solid than all the enemies' bets. It adds: We are not confirming our vigor and determination to build and develop our life by mere expressions and words. Rather, we are confirming all this by sincere work, effective efforts, and constant sacrifice in order to be qualified to win the future and its prerequisites, factors, and conditions.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say that the Iraqis have launched construction, modernized construction, and development throughout their years of glory. What the Iraqis have built during the new era of construction has been valuable and not only material. Others built high-rise buildings but without spirit or values and soon facts emerged in the historic showdown. The Iraqis emerged stronger and towering armed by their will, steadfastness, valor, and determination.

The paper emphasizes that construction requires tremendously sincere efforts and zeal as well as willpower and sacrifice in addition to its direct material prerequisites.

Reconstruction Process Under Saddam Praised

NC0703174891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1618 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Despite the ferocious imperialist-Zionist onslaught against great Iraq, the political leadership under leader President Saddam Husayn has announced glad tidings to the sons of our great Iraqi people. These tidings call for quick reconstruction of damage from the war and for providing essential needs and other things for the citizens' daily life. This great leadership has not forgotten for a moment the Iraqi citizens' needs, concerns, and even their fears. The recent decisions the political leaders have announced to the Iraqis have proven that the wicked plot against Iraq and its great people has been broken and buried thanks to the Iraqis'

heroic steadfastness and to the political leaders' insistence on continuing reconstruction at a greater tempo than before. This is in regard to both the timing and quality of the work.

Therefore, the efforts of the noble Iraqi people are adopting a characteristic of great struggle regarding the missions and requirements dictated by the process of reconstructing the war damage and continuing to build our civilization and culture.

Iraq, which has an ancient history, deep roots, and great civilization, will not abandon its role which constantly makes it a source of admiration and appreciation for the whole world. The new facts expressed by several world politicians stress that Iraq's ability to build is great. Furthermore, its response to the developments of the situation toward peace and its embarking on reconstruction are a source of great pride for every good-hearted and honest person in the world. The bechive working today in the ministries and departments involved in the reconstruction process increases our pride in the great people who built the first civilization in the world and in our teacher leader Saddam Husayn, whose name is synonymous with all the achievements we have realized and the epics recorded for us in the annals of history.

U.S. Trying To Convince Arabs on Need for Bases

NC0803100391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that all the political and military moves inside and outside the Middle East region are part of a single plan which aims to guarantee full U.S. hegemony on the region's destinies.

The paper adds that the Arab forces allied with Bush and whose expenses are covered by the Gulf states will act merely as an umbrella with an Arab cover to mislead the region's public and nations which reject foreign presence on their territory. However, the paper says, these forces will receive orders from the U.S. White House.

AL-QADISIYAH points out that the United States is currently endeavoring to convince the Arab regimes allied with it to keep the air and naval bases under permanent U.S. disposal on the pretext of handling any crisis that might erupt later. It affirms that this U.S. procedure is a return to the policy of alliances and military bases here and there contrary to the claims of the Bush administration about its eagerness to safeguard stability and peace and not to establish permanent bases. The paper says this cannot be dissociated from the roles being prepared by the U.S. Administration since the end of the Gulf crisis.

Paper Foresees Continuing U.S. Presence in Gulf

NC0703123391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—AL-'IRAQ rules out that the U.S. Administration is indeed determined to terminate its military presence in the Arab Gulf region.

In an analysis which appeared in today's edition, the paper recalls Washington's plans, objectives, and aspirations in the region. It says that the United States has brought its forces to the Gulf to stay and not to leave. While dismissing the claims made by the Bush administration about the departure from the Gulf, the paper cites the statements made by a number of U.S. politicians and officials concerning the White House's intentions to permanently keep its military presence in the region.

AL-'IRAQ cites the remarks made by the under secretary of the Defense Department to the effect that the United States wishes to find the means that would provide it with more flexibility in deploying its military forces in the Arab Gulf more rapidly than what happened last August. The U.S. official also said that the United States is ready to increase the size of its military presence in the region more than what it had been during the period before the Gulf crisis. He reiterated that the U.S. presence will continue and that the Pentagon wants to stockpile heavy caliber hardware and conduct maneuvers jointly with the region's states in a scale wider than the previous maneuvers.

AL-'IRAQ points to the serious U.S. presence, which is not linked to the number of troops or military units as spelled out by Defense Secretary Richard Cheney when he said that the United States is not concerned to keep a huge land force permanently in the (?Gulf region) and that there are plans to keep heavy military equipment in the region.

The paper links Cheney's remarks to the report disclosed by the weekly magazine BUSINESS WEEK that U.S. companies had the lion's share of the contracts signed over the past few days. The paper says this means that the U.S. Administration is trying to find a legitimate cover to justify its presence even under the cover of civilian companies.

AL-'IRAQ underlines what Secretary of State James Baker had revealed about the articles of a plan concerning the U.S. military presence in the region. Baker said that the United States will play a role in the new security arrangements in the region and will maintain a more powerful air force and an appropriate naval force in addition to the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states more intensively than previously.

Talk Examines History of British 'Rancor'

NC0803013291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1921 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The science of politics is described as the art of achieving the possible; or, in other words, the art of achieving one's political interests. Thus, international relations relies on reality in viewing the overall historical era, and interests are not pursued from an (?emotional) stand.

Japan, for instance, has held China under its control, with all that this entails in terms of intensity and (?past) effects. However, the current position of the two countries within international relations, as two countries equal in duties and rights, must not be [word indistinct] on the basis of the past political relationship between the two countries, and what it involved in terms of the notions, feelings, specifics, and results that changed completely along with the change in the international political scene and the fundamental alteration in the (?entire) historic position of the two nations.

The politicians of Britain, however, are an exception to these international political rules, and insist on proceeding from the latent rancor borne by the history of their political relations with other nations, particularly those nations which they had [word indistinct] and which remained under their shackles for some time. However, their sun eclipsed in these nations after [words indistinct] freedom and independence. The politicians of Britain proceed from this rancor in their current political dealings with the countries they colonized, as if they did not acknowledge the change in the international political scene, or as though they were (?pained) by this change.

These nations are supposed to bear the rancor and grudge toward Great Britain [words indistinct] peoples [words indistinct] of what British policy involves and what the British politicians harbor in terms of black rancor and latent grudges toward the Iraqi people, and Britain's persistence in its animosity and hatred of the Iraqis, reaching a point that exceeds the limits of the current international political scene. A keen observer will surely realize that Britain oversteps all bounds to base its frenzy on the historical background of Iraqi-British relations—and this is not something strange for the politicians and leaders of Britain. Didn't Allenby stand at the tomb of hero Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi [Saladin] and say with a heart full of rancor: Now, the Crusades are over?

The history of our great people's struggle against Britain is (?bound) to breed such psychological historical complexes by the successive governments of Great Britain, no matter how much time passes. Regardless of the color of these governments or their politicians, they inherit these psychological complexes and these [word indistinct] by the fire of Iraqi anger that has erupted since the first British soldier set foot on the land of this great homeland.

They are still (?redressing) their historical wounds which our people inflicted upon them and which they could not heal, beginning with the 1920 revolution until the immortal battle of nationalization. Britain did not forget the great duel during the 1920 revolution, when all Iraqis stood up and told her no, and engaged its lethal war machine with primitive means but with high values that the colonialists did not understand, and thus did not comprehend how the revolutionaries (?captured) their train loaded with their soldiers. They did not understand what [words indistinct] that urged the revolutionaries to (?capture) the train. They naturally did not forget the murder of Sir [name indistinct] and we did not forget it either, because it is a symbol of Iraqi pride. They did not forget the courageous people of [words indistinct] when they filled the river [name indistinct] with the bodies of the British occupiers.

If they want more memories, the pages are full, and so is our account of the sense of national honor and pride, and so is Britain's account of cruelty, lowliness, and betrayal. It is the memory of a (?regime); the memory of battlefields, accompanied by plenty of acts of murder, detention, torture, and harassment. The details of the history of our relationship with Britain, like any history of nations struggling against their colonizers, will remain the property of the peoples and be engrained in their memory. It will not be a [word indistinct] for the politicians of the colonialist states from which they derive their rancor and grudges in dealing with the nations in which their sun had eclipsed. It will continue to (?mark) their political practices, even under the new political order.

Let it be as Britain wants. Let her turn the pages and increase her malice against our great people, for this will only increase our adherence to our immortal national history and convince us that we will always have the upper hand in any duel with her, as long as we seek inspiration from the values that wrote this history. Their new world order will not change the essence of international relations—which constitutes a relationship between unjust imperialist states and oppressed countries—or the true nature of the conflict, which would never happen unless the equation were upset and historical changes introduced—changes that are not in favor of Great Britain or its ilk, but in favor of peoples.

If in any era there has to be a country among the major states that is called the sick man, then in this age there is a state among the imperialist states which fits the description of the old and sick—small Britain.

Further Reportage on Reaction To Bush Speech

Sharon on Speech, 1989 Plan

TA0703124891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0632 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by anchorman Shalom Qital and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Minister Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning to you.

[Qital] Did you hear Bush's speech last night?

[Sharon] No, I did not hear it, but I understood the gist of it from your reports.

[Qital] What have you to say?

[Sharon] Well, I think we have to make an effort to reach peace. We must initiate, not wait. I am in favor of a genuine peace initiative, but it should be approached after a correct order of priorities and emphases has been established. As a rule, discussions are held on existing plans. In May 1989, Israel presented a very dangerous plan that leads nowhere. In the meantime, several far-reaching developments have occurred necessitating a reexamination of the Israeli peace initiative. In recent weeks, we had an opportunity to retreat from our erroneous positions and it is still not too late. Israel must now stand up and announce its exact position and the way it chooses to approach the issue of peace. If we do not make the announcement, we will be forced to start providing answers to proposals made by others. This does not mean that everything we say will be accepted, but we must at least make Israel's destination clear.

[Qital] Mr. Sharon, you have managed to surprise me with your remarks, and mainly, with your tone. I thought that when asked about Bush's speech, you would spew fire and brimstone with regard to the territories-for-peace formula. You replied with equanimity, however, and your calm remarks referred to the speech in general terms only.

[Sharon] In the course of my political career, after facing complex and difficult situations, I have learned that the more complicated and dangerous the situation, the greater the need to lower one's tone, speak softly, and invest more in thought and in an examination of the issues.

[Golan] Would you say that Bush's statement complicates the situation even further, at least between us and the U.S. Administration?

[Sharon] I think that what complicates our situation is the fact that Israel does not speak clearly. This was my contention when the plan was first presented in 1989, and it still is. It was in connection with the political line of that plan, when I saw the abyss widening below our feet, that I quit the government. At the very last moment, the prime minister halted and I was thus able to stand by him.

[Golan] It was only yesterday, with you a member of the Cabinet, that the prime minister announced the government's adherence to the initiative. Furthermore, this time you are in a minority in your opposition to the initiative.

[Sharon] There have been many instances in which I was in a minority and in which I was happy, and sometimes unhappy, to learn that I was right. However, this is the least important point. What is important is that we address the issue of how and in what order we must approach the discussion of peace. First of all, I wish to point out that the Palestinian issue, which was at the core of the 1989 initiative, should be addressed only during the last stage; perhaps not after every other issue is addressed, but certainly not as the central topic. The Palestinian issue should not be the central issue on the government's agenda and certainly not on the agenda of its debates. To provide a solution to the problem of Jewish-Arab relations in Eretz Yisra'el we must first create the appropriate background. My proposal, which reflects my stand and which I hope to be able to convince the others is the right one, is as follows:

The first stage should be used for discussions and for examining the questions of peace or the cessation of warfare with the Arab countries. I would begin with Saudi Arabia and Iraq, with which we do not share a border, but which have nevertheless been at war with Israel since 1948.

The second point should be the beginning of a process of democratization in the Middle East. It is inconceivable that we should have to continue living in the shadow of dictators who drag their own countries and the entire world into wars, as did Saddam Husayn; as al-Asad, who is no better than Saddam Husayn, is perfectly capable of doing; and as al-Nasir did in the past.

[Qital] Can we and should we influence regimes and governments in neighboring countries?

[Sharon] We cannot, perhaps, fully influence them, but it is our duty to demand that the United States for instance, which has the greatest influence and which maintains a dialogue with Syria, explain that they must launch a process of democratization. It is inconceivable for one man to drag the entire world into war.

[Golan] In your opinion, this is a precondition for any negotiations with, say, Syria?

[Sharon] It would be preferable if you allowed me to complete my remarks, which will not take long. Things may become clearer then.

I am not talking about preconditions to negotiations. At the moment, I am talking about the prerequisite conditions, which are definitely preconditions, for peace or for the possibility of advancing toward peace in the Middle

East. I spoke of peace and of an end to the state of war with the Arab countries; I mentioned the democratization process. The next point is the arms race which must be halted or reduced at once; in addition, there must be a balance between Israeli arms procurements and those of its Arab neighbors.

The refugee problem must be dealt with, and I am not referring merely to those in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I am also talking about refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Kuwait. This is a festering wound that will never heal unless it is treated. We can sign every peace agreement in the world, but there will be no peace unless this problem is treated on a broad basis, encompassing the entire Middle East.

All the above are points of Stage A. Stage B will consist of the settlement of the Jewish-Arab conflict in Eretz Yisra'el. I would like to stress that I do not mean that this second stage is to be addressed when all the other processes are accomplished. Obviously, democratization is a protracted process; negotiations on disarmament or the reduction of weapons arsenals, or supervision of the countries' arms procurement are also a lengthy process, which took the USSR and United States 10 years. But, at least the processes can be initiated. I am therefore stressing that while Stage B does not refer to the period after all the rest is accomplished, it certainly cannot be dealt with before the other points are at least started. Stage B must come in the second part of the process, not the first. The mistake of the 1989 plan is in its failure to specify the order in which the various issues are to be addressed. In fact, at that time Israel committed itself on only one issue: the elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and we know where these would lead. The other issues were worded as a mere wish.

What I am now proposing is that, although the entire initiative is bad, if the government decides to go on with it, at least a few changes be introduced in it to guarantee our safety and survival. It is inconceivable that Israel would not tell Secretary of State Baker: Please visit Syria and start discussing chemical disarmament with it. Syria possesses more chemical weapons than Iraq; Syria has hundreds of precision missiles, which have not been modified, and which can hit every part of Israel down to Beersheba. We have already seen what missiles are; we can no longer ignore that threat.

[Qital] This is clear. Mr. Sharon, to end this interview, a short question: If we have correctly understood the preconditions you have presented—stopping the state of war; ending the arms race; solving the refugee problem; launching democratization in the neighboring countries—you have stated what the other party has to do. What is our part in the process?

[Sharon] Well, we are full partners in the solution of these issues. As for the refugee problem, I have been speaking of the need to solve it for 23 years. As the Arab countries ought to solve it at their end, we must solve it here; there should be a combined effort. On the subject of democratization, we need not do anything, because Israel is the only democratic country in the entire Middle East, and perhaps also throughout Africa down to the Atlantic Ocean. Speaking of disarmament, the equation of weapon arsenals, and the establishment of a relevant supervision apparatus, Israel is certainly a partner.

I would like to add that Syria is already rearming. It has just received a part of a $2.2 billion grant. We know it is rearming, although it claims that it is afraid of Israel. I would tell Secretary Baker: On your tour of the Arab countries, please discuss with them the refugee problem; create the background for talks with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other countries; and please tell the Syrians that it is necessary to begin the process of disarmament, of a reduction of arms arsenals—perhaps the term reduction would be more appropriate; and if they fear Israel so much, you can guarantee their safety. The demand should not always be to guarantee Israel's safety; we have already seen the import of such guarantees. Those who want to know what Arabs can do to the Jews should look at how Kuwait looks today, what happened to it, and what Arabs have done to Arabs.

Well then, if Syria is apprehensive, it may ask the United States for the required guarantees. If Syria is attacked by Israel, the United States will stand at Syria's side, since Israel obviously has no intention of attacking any other Arab country.

To sum up, we have to do the following: A. Take initiative. B. Look at the broader spectrum, rather than the narrow angle as the previous plan had. C. Launch an extensive public relations campaign, which will be easy, because after the world has seen what a dictator such as Saddam Husayn can do, it will easily imagine what a dictator like al-Asad is capable of. All this should be done quietly but without ceding our position in any sphere.

[Qital] Mr. Sharon, I thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Milo on Bush Statements, Peace Process

TA0703161191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo by Dan Shilon in the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Territories for peace, mutual compromises are basically old formulas. However, they apparently are a cause for concern for at least some of the Israeli Cabinet ministers. Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo is here with us. Good evening.

[Milo] Good evening.

[Shilon] Territories for peace is a formula that is enscapulated within UN Resolutions 242 and 338; it is a

formula that was accepted in Camp David. Why then should we fear this formula that the U.S. President gave voice to this morning?

[Milo] First of all, I would not suggest that anyone fear this or that formula expressed by the U.S. President. After all, what will finally decide things is our policy, the policy of the State of Israel and its government. We have a clear policy regarding this issue. The Israeli Government has a political plan that was endorsed in the past by the National Unity government in May 1989, and I believe that this plan offers the basis for progress toward peace, with the positive influence that the United States is capable today of exerting on Syria, on Egypt, and on Saudi Arabia helping us move in the direction of peace. This is very encouraging.

[Shilon] But begging your pardon, the Israeli initiative requires some partners, including the United States. What happens if the Americans come today and say that the Israeli plan is all nice and dandy but that they are talking about the principles comprised in Resolution 242? Can one today talk with Israel about territories for peace? Not all the territories, as 242 mentions territories, but not "the territories?"

[Milo] I think that the principle we should be discussing today is that of direct negotiations. First of all, we should sit down at the table without preconditions.

[Shilon] You are purposely not answering my question.

[Milo] No, no. I am answering exactly that, because when we say that we have no preconditions and that we are coming without predconditions, we are basically saying: Let us sit down and hold negotiations with each side bringing up its claims. The Arab side can state its demands. They can demand the Golan Heights, Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem, or maybe even that we go back to the 1947 borders. Any demand is negotiatable. We will come with our positions. We have very clear positions on Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; we today have a very clear policy. Let each side bring its own position to the negotiations table with the purpose being to achieve peace, and I think that our plan also offers the basis to succeed.

[Shilon] But when you say without preconditions, while at the very beginning of negotiations, we are basically saying that we do not accept the principle of territories for peace—that means that we are the ones who are submitting a precondition.

[Milo] I do not think we should come and state that we do or do not accept this or that principle. What we should say is that we have a plan. The plan that was endorsed by the government is a good one and could enable progress to be made. We will bring that plan with us to the negotiating table, and I hope very much that the United States will do their part by trying to influence Syria and Saudi Arabia to join a process of direct negotiations that could, in my estimate, eventually bring about peace.

[Shilon] Minister Milo, I still want a direct answer. I seemed to sense something and perhaps you would be so kind as to clear it up. You said that you were not saying no to this formula. Are you saying yes to the possibility of such a formula?

[Milo] Such a formula can exist....

[Shilon, interrupting] A formula of territories for peace?

[Milo] There can be a formula. I am merely stating in the clearest way that this formula is not acceptable to me nor is it accepted by the currrent Israeli Government. We think that there is a political plan which will constitute the basis for our policy and future progress, and I believe that this plan is the only viable way toward peace.

[Shilon] Before we go on, we have an excerpt of Bush's speech from this morning. Let us see just exactly how he himself posited the issues in the aftermath of the Gulf war. [passage omitted on excerpt of Bush speech]

[Shilon] Do you have a problem with these statements?

[Milo] I do not think we should have any problem. President Bush was speaking about credibility. I think that if the United States, that was a party to the Camp David accords, wants to maintain its credibility it must continue moving and progressing along the same path. If we follow this path I foresee no problems in making progress further on. The Palestinians that the President was speaking of—the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—can certainly find satisfaction within the framework of the Camp David accords. The accords stipulate autonomy, self-rule—while on the other hand the President stressed the security of Israel. Israel's security demands that we do not withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as well as maintaining our presence along the Jordan River. Because if we get out, and the PLO takes control of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—we will face real danger from the security aspect and this is something that the State of Israel cannot agree to. I suggest....

[Shilon, interrupting] Excuse me, but did you not discern in this speech a sign of what we should expect in the U.S. position. You keep on talking about what Israel will say but there is also the question of how the United States will react?

[Milo] Listen, we are aware of the fact that we have no small disagreements with the United States regarding the peace process. We have had them in the past and we shall continue to have them. I nevertheless believe that the question as far as we are concerned should be whether our position is one that can help facilitate peace or not. Incidentally, the entire Israeli Government, with the participation of the Alignment, decided that the position set in May 1989, the peace initiative, can further the

peace process in the serious and sincere manner we so desire. I believe it can be accomplished this way.

[Shilon] One more thing. We hear that even within the Likud itself there are ministers like Ari'el Sharon that have already expressed concern about even the kind of statements you have just made. They want to convene the Likud Central Committee. Will most of the Likud ministers in the government agree to such a move?

[Milo] The convention of the Likud Central Committee is under the responsibility of the chairman of the Central Committee who must consult with the prime minister, who must agree.

[Shilon] What is your position?

[Milo] I do not oppose convening the Central Committee. I simply think that now is not the best time. We are on the eve of Secretary of State Baker's visit, and if we had to change the Likud's or the government's positions today, I would certainly feel that the Central Committee should be convened. However, on the basis of my approach and to the best of my understanding there is no need whatsoever to change neither the government's or the Likud's positions. Therefore, I feel that this would be unnecessary. I also did not hear about any formal request being submitted to the prime minister. There may have been such an idea; however, I see no need for this today. We have a position to bring with us to our meetings with Baker. The State of Israel has never been suspected of not wanting to make progress toward peace. If, as I said before, it will be possible, following the war with Iraq, to use the positive influence wielded by the United States over Saudi Arabia and Syria, then we will certainly be able to move toward peace.

[Shilon] Peace with Syria? Without giving up a centimeter of the Golan Heights?

[Milo] You are not suggesting that the two of us start the negotiations? I think that we have to sit down with the Syrians without any preconditions and talk about peace. I believe that once we start talking about peace together it will become attainable.

[Shilon] The current Israeli Government is not a national unity government but rather a government that incorporated Rehav'am Ze'evi [from the extreme right-wing Moledet party] and that features ministers whose opinions do not differ much from Ze'evi's. Would you not say that such a government is constrained by views even more extreme than expressed in the May 1989 initiative?

[Milo] The government is bound to follow its basic guidelines, and its basic guidelines stipulate that the May 1989 initiative is the initiative we will follow. In this respect, whoever joined the government had to accept these guidelines and this policy. This is the policy that we will follow.

[Shilon] You have certainly heard the statements made by ministers from the more extreme right who wish to abandon this plan?

[Milo] There are such voices. We hear them during the Cabinet debates, but I think that even they are well aware that our policy is founded on the solid basis of the goverment's positions, guidelines, and peace initiative, and that this is the path that we shall continue to pursue. I think that in this way we can attain the peace that I want to believe that the whole government wants. We have a solid and firm basis to follow.

[Shilon] Thank you Minister Milo.

Qatzav Sees Contradictions

TA0703163391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav by Yaron Wilensky and No'omi Qeren; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Wilensky] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav is a member of the Inner Cabinet. Shalom.

[Qatzav] Shalom.

[Wilensky] Let us first hear your reaction to Bush's speech in Washington, in particular his comments on the solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict, namely the mention he made of the principle of territories for peace.

[Qatzav] I believe that this declaration by the U.S. President conflicts with an earlier statement he made opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. In fact, two elements in his address conflict with his earlier statement. The first, the matter of territories for peace. Everyone understands that ceding Judaea and Samaria or parts thereof will automatically lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and that no power in the world will be able to prevent this. As I said, this conflicts with an earlier statement he made. President Bush often announced that he does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

As for the issue of granting of political rights, that, too, conflicts with his earlier stands. I think that the position of the Israeli Government and 90 percent of the Knesset members and the Zionist parties is unequivocal and firm in expressing opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Qeren] Does such a public declaration not somewhat cast a shadow just before Baker's visit? How will Israel deal with such a declaration?

[Qatzav] We are not grading the U.S. President, certainly not publically through the media. In any case, we have a right to take issue with him. I am hereby expressing disagreement with his announcement. The principle of

territories for peace is one which leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state. That is something to which the entire cabinet and 90 percent of the parties' representatives in the Knesset oppose.

[Wilensky] Since Bush's remarks and his messenger Secretary of State Baker's visit come after the war in the Gulf and, in light of the fact that they enjoy almost wall-to-wall support in Washington, will this make the position we will present to James Baker more difficult to explain?

[Qatzav] Relations with the United States are not at all sour, God forbid; they are good and normal. The United States has often declared its commitment to Israel's security, our friendship, and earlier agreements. We differ, however, in the political arena. Israel and the United States interpret Israel's security concept differently. We will therefore exchange views in the course of our meetings, especially next week when the secretary meets here and confers with the senior government echelon. We will have to see how far we agree on the principles. I, for one, believe that a declaration of objection to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—as the U.S. President has declared as much on more than one occasion—can bring the positions closer and make things easier for us. [passage omitted]

Party Leaders React

TA0703211291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts][passage omitted] The Tehiya Council ruled this evening that the Likud should view itself free of the May 1989 initiative, which was passed due to a compromise between the Likud and the Alignment.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi totally rejects President Bush's address, while Minister Refa'el Eytan says that these remarks encompass a danger to Israel's existence.

The Labor Party, on the other hand, welcomed President Bush's address, although the Peres-Rabin feud still remains. Shim'on Peres believes that Israel should offer a new peace initiative, whereas Rabin adheres to the May 1989 peace initiative. [passage omitted]

The left-of-Alignment bloc heartily welcomes Bush's address, regarding his statements as an opening for peace. The Citizens Rights Movement says that it is both sad and frustrating to observe an active U.S. Administration versus a paralyzed and rejectionist Israeli Government.

Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] says that James Baker must hear in Israel unequivocal statements, not equivocation from Shamir's school.

Tamar Gozansky of HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] says that the adoption of the principle of territories for peace is an essential step in the direction of peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Speech Said 'Disappointing'

TA0803113491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Mar 91 p A2

[Editorial: "Bush's New Order Sounds Banal and Out of Date"]

[Text] President Bush's speech, made early yesterday morning Israel time, in which he laid out the principles of what he previously termed the "new order" to which he will aspire after the Gulf war, is a disappointing collection of meaningless statements and wornout cliches.

George Bush is offering four challenges: joint and agreed upon security arrangements in the region; restrictions on the sale of nonconventional weapons and the equipment needed to launch them; the creation of new opportunities for peace and stability; the promotion of economic development for the sake of peace and progress.

Had it not been George Bush who presented it, we might have believed that this text was taken from the pamphlet of some naive youth movement. The President went into some of the details of the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying: A comprehensive peace should be based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territories for peace. This principle should be dealt with in a way that will satisfy Israel's security needs and lead to the recognition of its existence, while satisfying the Palestinians' legitimate political rights. Nothing else can stand the test of fairness and security.

This sounds like a faint echo of the many statements made since the peace accords with Egypt were signed. Territories for peace, security, and recognition are expressions taken from quite an outdated American diplomatic manual.

Something has happened in the Middle East and in the Gulf. President Bush scored a major military victory. It seems that his only conclusion, however, is that now he can implement his new order—which in fact is an old order—with less effort than before.

It seems to us that what took place in the Gulf and the Middle East since August 2 1990, when Kuwait was conquered by Iraq, should have also changed the content of the U.S. peace plan. Judging from Bush's statements, the plan has not been updated.

All that is left now is to observe whether things have really not changed or whether the phraseology has remained unchanged while the content has been updated. As a basic framework, the old plan did not seem to us inappropriate even in the past. At that time, it could not be implemented, and not only because of inflexibility on Israel's part. One must hope, therefore,

that this is not the only aspect of the past President Bush wishes to correct with the help of the assets he collected in his Gulf victory.

Foreign Minister Opposes Land for Peace Plans

LD0703203791 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Israelis are pleased about the warming up of their relations with Europe but they did not appreciate George Bush's speech last night. The White House chief said the time has come to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. For that the Americans want to obtain the exchange of occupied territories for peace and security for Israel within its borders. Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister David Levi speaks of differences between his country and the United States on this principle of the exchange of territories for peace:

[Begin recording] [Levi] Israel is not a state which must be pushed into or pressed for peace. All the same, nobody can give the hoped for answer to the question: How to give this security to Israel? Imagine a Palestinian state in Judea or Samaria! It would have been the end of Israel. One always asks Israel: What is Israel willing to give? I ask the Arab countries: What are you willing to give? Why do you always refuse to talk with Israel without preconditions, face to face? You have to make an effort to prove to your people that you are for peace. If they do that they will find Israel ready with a hand stretched out for peace. I am convinced that there is an opportunity now. [end recording]

Shomron Interviewed on Regional Security Plans

TA0703182091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Interview with Chief of Staff Dan Shomron by political correspondents Shlomo Ganor, Yoni Ben-Menahem, and Dani Levi on the weekly "Meeting" program on 7 March—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr. Chief of Staff.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Ganor] And a good evening to my colleagues Yoni Ben-Menahem and Dani Levi. Mr. Chief of Staff, now that the Gulf war is over efforts are now being made to secure regional security arrangements. Will Israel participate or want to be integrated in these accords?

[Shomron] Of course Israel will want to be a part of this. Israel, first of all, wants the region to be quiet and safe after the threats issued by Iraq, and more specifically by Saddam Husayn personally. I think that the conclusion of the war and the way it was fought will certainly lead to some accords, and I hope that the political approach to resolving problems in the Middle East which was spearheaded by Egyptian President Mubarak and which has overcome the policy based on force which was promulgated by Saddam Husayn will really bring a different attitude to the Middle East.

[Ganor] What kind of regional arrangement would Israel hope to be integrated in?

[Shomron] I would say an arrangement in which there is first of all no danger of war; in which the direction is political; and in which the region is really given the opportunity to make use of its economic resources in a relationship without perpetual threat of war, like today.

[Ben-Menahem] What can Israel contribute to achieve this, even though it was not an active partner in the Gulf war effort?

[Shomron] Israel was a participant just by the fact that it helped keep the coalition together by not actively intervening. I assume that we all understand that an Israeli intervention—that was something Saddam Husayn may have anticipated.... [changes thought] and we were capable of intervening in a very serious manner. It was important for us to enable the coalition—which also had an Arab component—to wage the war until victory, a victory that serves the interests of the entire Middle East and I would even say the whole world.

[Ben-Menahem] Sir, two days ago the U.S. secretary of defense praised Israel for the restraint it showed. Has Israel's deterrent capability not been detrimentally affected?

[Shomron] Look, this is not the first time that I have said that deterrence is a subjective concept. Looking over the past we can see that six years after the 1967 war, which was an overwhelming Israeli victory, there already was another war. Did we lose our deterrence? Obviously we did, and that is why the war broke out. The 1973 war was a difficult war. There were those who claimed that we had lost our deterrent capability; however, our enemies understood things differently. The 1973 war led to the peace treaty with Egypt, and look how many long years have gone by without any Arab country attacking us.

[Ganor] Can this shed any light on the future?

[Shomron] This shows only one thing. That deterrence is a subjective matter. When a head of state makes a decision on what he wants, he takes the price he may have to pay into account. If he is willing to pay that price, then there is no deterrence as far as he is concerned.

[Ben-Menahem] But Mr. Chief of Staff, if the S[illegible]e of Israel repeatedly states that it will react at the time and place it finds right, and Saddam Husayn still decided to launch missiles at Israel, does this not constitute a blow to our deterrent capability? Did our deterrence work here or not?

[Shomron] Our deterrence is not meant to work in the sense you just put it. Of course we could have retaliated. We had good plans, we made them known to the United States; however, I assume that all the Arab countries—

Egypt, Syria especially, Jordan—they all know that our capability to act, retaliate against, or to prevent the missile launchings is very formidable.

[Ben-Menahem] But what good is this if we do not use it? After all the Arabs....

[Shomron, interrupting] We are talking deterrence, and therefore every leader who considers his actions will have to take this Israeli capability into account as a very serious factor in his evaluation. This should be known and this is the real deterrence. I think that some of the neighboring countries have a very good understanding of our considerations, and perhaps the fact that our home front stood firm—although some 40 missiles struck Israel. This fortitude is also part of deterrence. After all, we did not sit still due to lack of capability, but because we are strong. And out of a position of strength, we told ourselves that our best interests obligate us to sit still and not intervene, for our own good and for the good of the entire region. I imagine that at any moment, and according to our own considerations, we could have retaliated in the most severe manner. This constitutes deterrence.

[Levi] Does the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] need to draw any conclusions in this field and perhaps also in others so that certain features of this war—whether on the home front or other military aspects—will not repeat themselves?

[Shomron] Now you are going back to the issue of the home front, which is a totally different matter. When we speak about the threat, the home front is one of the components of the threat posed to the State of Israel, but it is certainly not the major one. The major threat is military force, whether represented by tanks, artillery, or planes—and it is also missile attacks on the home front. Therefore, the response formulated by the IDF and the State of Israel, and what the IDF is prepared for, is first of all to destroy the major threats, and these are enemy armies. That is why the IDF exists, to first achieve victory over the major threat. In the case of Iraq, as you surely understand, when the military machine was eliminated, the missiles subsequently stopped landing here, right? Therefore, our goal is first of all to destroy the enemy.

[Levi] Should not conclusions be drawn anyway in the fields of early warning and reaction in the IDF's battle doctrine?

[Shomron] I can tell you that we had an excellent level of early warning. We prepared for this war for about five and a half months. We prepared plans for an IDF response and we also prepared the home front, and the fact of the matter is that these preparations also bore fruit. Even though there were no missiles carrying chemical warheads, only one man—and I stress the words only one man—was killed during the conventional missile attacks after being directly hit by a missile. This was part of preparing the home front. We prepared the Army, however, for the entire range of possibilities—from an Israeli operation to eliminate the missile threat and up to a situation in which we would perhaps, as a result of a deteriorating state of affairs, have to fight additional armies. We were well prepared for any eventuality. As for early warning when missiles were actually launched, we had excellent early warning, thanks to the United States.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Chief of Staff, what about general military lessons regarding the use of the Air Force and the armored corps. What does the IDF hope to learn from the war in the Gulf, regarding weapon systems for example?

[Shomron] I would like to tell you that the interesting thing is that this war, as it was fought, corresponds to the lessons we have already learned from our experience in previous wars. The technological edge, the ability of commanders to fight and maneuvere—these are the crucial elements in war. And I always say that a war is waged on the psychological level. An army does not collapse because most of its troops or military equipment has been destroyed. On the contrary, generally only a small part of that equipment is out of commission. An army crumbles to pieces when it becomes aware that it no longer has a chance and the battle is lost. Therefore the kind of weapons that demonstrate clear superiority, such as the stand-off weapons used for over 45 days by the United States made it clear to the Iraqis, all the way from the top brass right down to the simplest foot soldiers, that they had no chance. The U.S. movement over ground, with the quick maneuvering that cut deep into the Iraqi rear, sent a clear signal that the allied forces were so superior to the Iraqis that the battle had already been decided. The Iraqis knew that they might kill a few enemies but would be swiftly cut down if they fought. Thus, the battle was not really a fight, it was more of an operation to sweep up prisoners.

[Ganor] That was the case in the Gulf; however, the sounds of battle have not yet died down and we are already witnessing large arms deals in the region. Syria is getting Scud missiles. Saudi Arabia and Egypt are also getting weapons. Mr. Chief of Staff, will you recommend that the Israeli Goverment support a supervision of the regional arms race and that the distribution of weapons of mass destruction be limited?

[Shomron] Experience shows that after every war there is a leap in the investment of resources in armaments and military procurements. This is partly a result of the desire to adapt one's weaponry to the lessons drawn from the war, partly a desire to replace old or damaged equipment. We are familiar with these leaps in the arms race after every war. I think it would be right to limit this arms race, even though we already know that a great deal of the equipment that flowed into the Middle East as part of the preparations for the war may remain here. We also know about arms deals that Syria is conducting or on the verge of closing with the Soviet Union....

[Levi, interrupting] With money that they got from the....

[Shomron, interrupting] Yes, money has no color and no smell. They received money and now have the resources. We also have knowledge of their deals with East Asia and of other deals involving armaments that they cannot get from the USSR. Therefore, this arms race constitutes a danger for the future. I think that it would be important not just for Israel, but for the entire Middle East, to invest their resources in that new order we earlier spoke about, in the direction of economic cooperation and the quelling of hostilities. To achieve the possibility to live in the Middle East not just in a normal, but in a pleasant atmosphere, instead of investing huge sums in ....

[Levi, interrupting] That is to be hoped for, Mr. Chief of Staff, but what is your recommendation?

[Shomron] Look, we cannot supervise the arming of neighboring countries. We must always make sure that we are able to guarantee the survival of the State of Israel in any case. Therefore, if the arms race goes on around us we will have to take action to secure our qualitative edge in any case.

[Ben-Menahem] But sir, any agreement regarding supervision may also mean a reduction in the strength of the IDF?

[Shomron] I said in any case: Until we reach peace, we must make sure that we have the ability to confront any threat to Israel. And this means that first of all—because we will always be a small country with a small army—we will have to maintain the IDF's qualitative edge over all the armies in the Middle East.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Chief of Staff, you mentioned Syria and I would like to focus on this latest arms deal. Is this really a consignment of missiles, and does this constitute a greater danger than the Iraqi missile threat?

[Shomron] Well, we have already seen that missiles are a threat, and missiles with a heavier warhead or with greater accuracy are naturally more dangerous.

[Ben-Menahem] Does this increase the Syrian threat to Israel in your opinion?

[Shomron] Certainly it increases the potential threat. Every such weapon increases the threat. We have no intention of attacking Syria, and therefore every additional piece of equipment Syria has constitutes a threat to Israel for which we must find the appropriate solutions, and we have the appropriate solutions.

[Ben-Menahem] But what do you have to say about the fact that at the end of the war of all times, when everyone is talking about a new order in the Middle East and regional security arrangements, Syria is rushing to buy missiles?

[Shomron] Well, that is a fact. Syria is part of the coalition today. In my opinion Syria has still not changed its basic policy ...

[Levi, interrupting] Not in the direction of peace at any rate?

[Shomron, continuing] ...that wants to reach strategic parity with Israel in order to dictate political conditions out of a position of strength.

[Ben-Menahem] In other words there are no signs that Syria is heading toward peace?

[Shomron] I cannot say that. I can say that the conditions are different. The probability of Syria, without the strategic depth offered by Iraq, and without a superpower like the USSR behind it, setting out for war is obviously smaller, even if it has stockpiled additional equipment. These missiles cannot be taken as the sole indicator [preceding word in English] of whether Syria will or will not set out for war—as though it will start a war with 20 missiles, but will not if it only has 19. That is not the only indicator [previous word in English]. Missiles are part of a weapons arsenal, but there are also peripheral components, such as the support of an Iraqi strategic rear, which is no longer there; such as the support of a superpower—the Soviet Union—which is no longer there. Going on all this, and when we look at the total threat posed by Syria, I think that today it is smaller.

[Ganor] Does that mean the eastern front is discountable or weakened? Has the danger posed to Israel by the eastern front before the outbreak of the Gulf war been reduced?

[Shomron] I can state that the threat posed by the eastern front has been reduced for the next few years or at least for the near future.

[Ben-Menahem] But is the dispatching of Iraqi expeditionary forces in the event of Syria starting a war against us still a viable possibility?

[Shomron] The possibility of this happening is much smaller today because I think the forces left in Iraq after the war, which are I believe 20 out of the previous 60 divisions, are busy putting down riots mainly in southern Iraq against the Shiites; however, they will also soon be facing a Kurdish revolt in the North. Therefore, they already have more than enough to do with their expeditionary forces. They can send them to southern Iraq to quell the riots.

[Ben-Menahem] This is where I would like to ask you about the conflicting reports from Iraq regarding the success of the opposition to Saddam Husayn's regime. What is your impression of the picture?

[Shomron] I would say that the minute the central regime is weakened, the same pressures that constituted an opposition before will grow stronger. We see this mainly in Shiite southern Iraq—as you know, the Sunnis live in central Iraq and serve as the backbone of the regime—and in the Kurdish North where the populace have their own demands that were stifled while the regime was strong. I would not like to prophesy how this

will develop; however, the central regime is hanging on in the meantime, in the sense that it is sending troops to put riots down and receives situation reports from the field. Therefore, there is still a central regime which is releasing POW's according to the cease-fire agreement. The central regime is still hanging on, but it is definitely very much weakened, immersed up to its ears in putting down riots—and it is still too early to say what kind of Iraq will come into being in the sense of its internal regime. It is clear that such an Iraq will not have a military industry, all its nonconventional industry was almost totally destroyed, it has significantly fewer weapons of any kind—less tanks, less artillery, less aircraft—and I would also say less desire to fight. After eight years of war with Iran and this war in Kuwait, I think that the motivation to fight again against Israel—which is a superpower in Middle Eastern terms—will be very much lower.

[Ben-Menahem] But what should be the Israeli interest in light of all these developments in Iraq, and in view of all this opposition to Saddam Husayn? Do we still think that the demise of Saddam Husayn's regime is an Israeli interest or can we learn to live with Saddam Husayn in lieu of an extremist Shiite regime in his stead?

[Shomron] Before anything else I would like to say that Saddam Husayn constitutes a danger to his immediate vicinity, to the Middle East, and to the entire world. History has already taught us that especially in nondemocratic countries, one man can lead an entire country to terrible disaster. Saddam Husayn is but the latest example of this. He will therefore constitute a danger for as long as he is in power. I do not know who could head an alternative regime and I do not know who would be better for us. I would like to see a government that first of all devotes itself to the rehabilitation of Iraq, that tries to consolidate good relations with all the neighboring countries, including Israel. That is what I would like to see and I do not care who will be in power there.

[Ben-Menahem] Since you have already spoke about Saddam Husayn and called him a danger, General Schwarzkopf almost scornfully dismissed Saddam Husayn's military capabilities. How do you regard Saddam Husayn's talent as a military strategist?

[Shomron] I think Saddam Husayn made almost all the possible mistakes. From the strategic aspect of entering Kuwait, through the evaluation that the coalition would not attack him, through the way he handled the war, and right up to the last minute. All the possible mistakes. Perhaps the only thing that surprises me is how in a country that must have slightly more balanced people in its leadership—people whose eyes are open to reality—no one was able to tell him that he was leading the entire country to a disaster. But as I already said, history can show us similar examples.

[Levi] But can anything be learned about the prowess of the Iraqi Army despite all the mistakes that were made?

[Shomron] I think that the Iraqi Army embarked on this war with the same outlook as during its war with Iran. They thought they would sit in their positions while infantry soldiers and Revolutionary Guards—or whatever the Iranian units were called—which included 13-year-old children, rushed at them and were mowed down. That is how they thought the war would develop and that is what they prepared themselves for. They got ready for a war the Americans had no intention whatsoever of fighting.

[Ganor] Mr. Chief of Staff, did the Iraqi missile attacks nevertheless shake Israel's political and security concept regarding the need for strategic depth, security zones, and wide margins?

[Shomron] In what sense do you mean shake? In the sense that perhaps margins are unnecessary?

[Ganor] That is what I would like to ask you.

[Shomron] I do not accept this and I would like to reiterate something. The missiles themselves.... [changes thought] And by the way, a plane can do exactly what a missile can and fly a long distance. Because, as I have already said, the major threat to Israel, according to our security concept, is posed by the enemy armies that physically and directly threaten the State of Israel, both territory and geography are important. These long-range missiles are one of the components of this threat and even a minor one in the existential sense. They hit, it is hard and painful, it causes our economy a lot of headaches; however, they constitute only a marginal threat to our existence. This point must be understood. We in this war, I was happy to say, only had to cope with a minor threat, and indeed the results—with all the pain over anyone who was hurt or injured, or whose house was demolished—as far as a state is concerned proved the insignificance of this threat.

[Ben-Menahem] What you are saying is that holding on to areas in the territories such as the mountain ridges that overlook the Jordan Rift Valley, for example, is a vital Israeli interest.

[Shomron] I say that the general issue of the territories is connected to the security problem. In the absence of a threat, the security problem disappears. Therefore, as long as there is a threat, territory—and I will not go into what specific points, as this is to be decided by the political echelon, the government—is important. If you ask me whether, since a missile has a range of 600 km, that makes all the territory inside that radius of 600 km unimportant, I would say this is not true.

[Levi] Still, as far as missile launchings are concerned, does territory provide strategic depth?

[Shomron] What determines the importance of this depth is the threat. As I said, the missile threat is negligible. It is the threat presented by armies that

counts. That is the real threat, and this is what should be addressed both in terms of strategic depth and in terms of military strength.

[Ganor] Mr. Chief of Staff, after a long period of quiet in the territories during the war, a certain upward trend in the level of disturbances has been noticed in the past few days. Why is that?

[Shomron] First of all, the increase is minor. Today the level of activity is far lower than before the start of the Gulf war. I believe that this stems, in part, from the fact that we have lifted the curfews over most of the area and have likewise allowed the locals to leave for work in Israel. Naturally, therefore, since more people are moving freely about, there is consequently a certain increase—still, its parameters are sporadic stoning incidents. I would not say that this indicates a major leap.

[Ben-Menahem] But sir, a soldier was stabbed in Nabulus this morning.

[Shomron] Correct, that is a fact. Of a population of approximately 700,000 in Judaea and Samaria, one person in one place was stabbed.

[Levi] Is this related to the population's eyes having opened?

[Shomron] I would not like to deal with this right now. I believe that the issue of the population's sobering up is extremely important. I would also like to use this medium to deliver a message to the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who believed they could try to dictate things to Israel, either by way of violence or through some idol like Saddam Husayn who would do their job for them. I think it is high time they wake up from this nonsensical dream. Israel is a strong country, one which will not forgo any element that makes up its security interests. The only way to score achievements is through a dialogue with Israel. A dialogue with Saddam Husayn, or the kind of dialogue 'Arafat has been holding with the world via his villas in Tunis or the luxury hotels he frequents overseas—all this will change nothing and will not help the residents of the territories, who only suffer more each time with every additional attempt. The only way is a dialogue with the State of Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] Still, sir, one cannot ignore this rise. It may have sounded like you are dismissing the phenomenon, nevertheless there has been a considerable rise in disturbances over the past few days. Could that not be related to the visit of the U.S. secretary of state? And, in general, what do you intend to do about this? Will you employ special security measures in anticipation of Baker's visit?

[Shomron] First of all, we certainly will. I assume the Baker visit will raise the level of disturbances, even though there have been PLO instructions for the inhabitants of the territories not to talk to him. Why? Because that would impinge on the leadership of the PLO on the outside. Fine, then. If the residents of the territories who live here with us leave their affairs for the PLO on the outside to handle, they will forever end up in that cul-de-sac, as has consistently been the case to date. If they do not pull themselves up by their bootstraps and engage in a direct dialogue with the State of Israel,....

[Ganor, interrupting] What do you mean by that?

[Shomron] Israel has a plan and a proposal. That is the Israeli Government's peace plan, which mentions elections in the territories and a dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories, but not with the PLO from the outside, not with the PLO which runs to embrace Saddam Husayn or the PLO which comes up with declarations day in and day out and whose leader shows up in different places every other day, thereby squandering that organization's money in easy living and pleasures. If that organization is the one to lead them, their predicament will continue to be difficult.

[Ben-Menahem] And yet you see that the support for the PLO continues, despite the....

[Shomron, interrupting] I am not so sure. It is too early to tell whether support for it continues.

[Levi] Do you think it will change following the latest statements about an alternative leadership to replace the PLO?

[Shomron] I think that whoever resides in the territories, whoever lives here and endures the real suffering as a result of the mistaken moves of its leadership on the outside—anyone in his right mind who views things with his eyes open will have, at some point, to realize that it is a fundamental error to allow the PLO, this leadership which has failed all along the way, to continue to serve as the leader or the one which will supposedly lead to some solution for the locals here. All those who comprehend what is happening must reach the conclusion, sooner or later, that this path is wrong.

[Ganor] What elections do you have in mind, Mr. Chief of Staff—municipal elections or elections for the autonomy council? What would you suggest at this operational stage?

[Shomron] I would not like to delve into areas that fall within the category of political issues. There exists an Israeli Government peace plan. In the territories, we are allowing—and will continue to allow—groups to assume responsibility for municipal matters such as education and providing services. We will be happy to let them take that responsibility and work for the good of the locals. With one proviso though, as always: that in an atmosphere of violence we will give away nothing. Such a state of affairs will nullify the addressee to whom we might have delegated that authority. Besides, these people will be scared of taking that responsibility. In short, violence brings only suffering upon the people.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Chief of Staff, curfews are still in effect in several parts of the territories, and there are still limitations on the entry of laborers from the territories

into Israel. However, the state of emergency in Israel has been canceled. It is over. When do you intend to....

[Shomron, interrupting] You are saying two contradictory things.

[Ben-Menahem] When do you intend to restore normalcy in the territories as well?

[Shomron] A moment ago you told me: Look, the level of violence has been on the upswing, so what are you going to do? Now you are asking me: Why, since it is all over, are you not reopening the border freely? Well, this is exactly the dilemma we are facing. We will not tolerate violence. When there is no more violence, and when there is a dialogue, we will be able to give a lot and ease the locals' life by a lot—this, after all, is what we want to do. Yet as long as violence prevails, or if there is fear of violence, we will take security measures, one of whose manifestations is limitations on departure for work in Israel. Another form of these measures is curfews or many other things which make life for the population much harder. We want to ameliorate the situation, but only on condition that they cooperate.

[Ganor] Mr. Chief of Staff, thanks for being our guest this evening.

Minister Eytan Says Arabs 'Incapable' of Peace

TA0803075091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Telephone interview with Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan by Gilat Levi and Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Good morning, Minister Eytan.

[Eytan] Good morning.

[Zohar] You must have heard George Bush's declaration, which was immediately followed by the White House spokesman's statement that geography is no guarantee for security. Do you believe that we can get the same impression from the Gulf war, or can this only be said in Washington?

[Eytan] This slogan is not new. Territories for peace is something we have heard in various versions ever since the 1950's. The Americans must be made to understand—some already have; some have but have chosen to ignore it; still others have failed to understand—that this is a recipe for the destruction of the State of Israel. We must not gamble and be tempted by the word peace, when there is nothing behind it but preparations or a better starting point for the last war, as the Arabs term it and which they are planning.

[Zohar] Do you mean that peace to them means something different from what it means to us?

[Eytan] They do not need peace with us; they do not want peace with us; they are incapable of making peace with us. What they want and need is a different Middle East, without the State of Israel.

[Zohar] Does that mean that, in fact, we do not need peace with them either?

[Eytan] It is not that we do not need peace. We want quiet. We want to be left alone to make our country grow.

[Levi] How can we find quiet without peace?

[Eytan] Through deterrence. A peace agreement is no guarantee against war. The absence of a peace agreement is no catalyst for war. This is true everywhere in the world and in the Middle East, especially when it comes to Arabs. Arabs do not keep agreements. We have seen how they honor agreements among themselves. So what is a peace agreement? It is a piece of paper signed by a dictator who is in power today and may be removed by force tomorrow.

[Zohar] Washington is trying to make it clear to Israel that, in fact, in the wake of the Gulf war and the methods applied there, territories are no longer a good defense. In this respect, we can afford to take a greater gamble, as you said before.

[Eytan] No one gambles with the very life and existence of a nation and a country.

[Zohar] Of course. The question is: Are territories still such an essential component of security today as they were 30 years ago?

[Eytan] Let the Americans apply this method in America and not here. Who will pay the price for the mistake, if they are mistaken? What if their theory is wrong? We will have to pay the price. Anyway, what took place in the Gulf has nothing to do with the theory of territories for peace. What is the connection? They went to war for oil, nothing else. They were ready to run Iraq into the ground to keep the oil to themselves. Where is the comparison? We must tell them straight in the face: If your theory fails, there will be no country or nation here. There will be nothing. So do not gamble for us.

[Levi] Was the U.S. statement yesterday the opening shot for massive pressure on Israel?

[Eytan] I do not know what is meant by massive pressure, in view of the alternative. I believe that we should have behaved differently a long time ago, a very long time ago. We should have reduced our economic dependence on the United States and stopped begging for handouts. We should have lived off our own labor, as they say, and not pursued a standard of living which is difficult to give up and which is based on money we are being given along with humiliation and contempt. We would have been treated differently.

[Zohar] Minister Eytan, thank you.

[Eytan] Shalom.

Arens Views U.S. Factor in Deterrence

TA0803100491 Tel Aviv YEDIOT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 8 Mar 91 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Has Israel's deterrence been harmed?

[Arens] No. I admit I have heard such views here and there, but our deterrence depends primarily on our military capability and on the Arab world's awareness of it.

Our military capability is very high, and the Arab world is well aware of it. It entertains no illusions about this. Besides, there is the deterrent in the form of the United States' conduct. Every Arab leader must now take into consideration a possible U.S. reaction as well. This will definitely strengthen stability in this region.

[Shilon] Does this turn Israel into a U.S. protege or satellite?

[Arens] I do not think so. We should not regret the fact that the Iraqi war machine was destroyed by the Americans. We can easily imagine a scenario in which Saddam Husayn would have decided to attack Israel instead of Kuwait and, furthermore, would have rallied a coalition, consisting of some countries such as Syria, Jordan, and maybe even Saudi Arabia, around him.

[Shilon] Would the U.S. deterrent have worked as well in such a case? Do you believe the United States would have come to our aid, as it did with Kuwait?

[Arens] We would probably have stood alone in such a war. We would have emerged victorious and would have crushed the adversary's war machine, but we would have also paid a very dear price.

[Shilon] Do you regret the fact that the war ended prematurely?

[Arens] Yes, but this is not to say that I believe the war should have continued and more people gotten killed. In any case, instead of winning "the mother of all battles," Saddam Husayn suffered "the mother of all defeats."

[Shilon] Yet he is still ruler of Iraq. Is that a disappointment?

[Arens] If I knew who would come in his place, I could give you a better answer.

[Shilon] Are you implying that Saddam Husayn, from your point of view, is the lesser of all evils?

[Arens] One should not say about such a brutal man that he is the lesser of all evils. He is definitely absolute evil. Yet it is hard to tell whether his replacement would be less evil.

[Shilon] Would you like to see King Husayn ousted in view of his behavior during this war?

[Arens] Here, too, the question is who would step into his shoes. I think that in this particular case, one can say with some certainty that whoever replaces King Husayn in Jordan will be worse from Israel's standpoint. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] As part of a new regional order, would you allow Israel to limit its arms procurement?

[Arens] We have not yet heard about the components of this "order," but we ourselves would like to see a new world order. We would like to see an end to wars in our region. One of the important paths to peace in the Middle East involves containing and limiting the arms race. We are definitely prepared to discuss it.

[Shilon] Are you declaring here unilaterally that Israel would agree to give up continuing to build its military might?

[Arens] If we reach an agreement on ending the import of weapons into the Middle East from the arms-producing countries, we will definitely be prepared to talk about this. Incidentally, we wanted to introduce such a clause into the government's peace initiative back in May 1989, but then Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin objected to it.

[Shilon] The U.S. Administration is currently described as resenting the incumbent Israeli Government. Do you feel it?

[Arens] Definitely not. I visited the United States not long ago and could sense no resentment. My relationship with the secretary of defense is close and good. He exhibited great friendship, and we maintain close contacts day and night.

[Shilon] Did you get from him all the intelligence assistance the defense establishment requires?

[Arens] There is nothing absolute in life, but the cooperation and assistance extended by the Americans was broad.

[Shilon] The above-mentioned resentment on the part of the U.S. Administration has to do mainly with the U.S. suspicion that Israel does not truly and sincerely intend to resolve the Palestinian problem. Did you not sense that either?

[Arens] There are certainly some U.S. figures, including some in the administration, who disagree with our policy. Nonetheless, there are no disagreements over the goals. No one doubts our desire for peace. We may definitely disagree over the ways to attain it and, to be realistic, I can say with a degree of certainty that the future holds disagreements in store as well.

[Shilon] These will be differences of opinion with a President who has become far stronger as a result of the Gulf war, so much so that he is totally free of any dependence on the Jewish vote.

[Arens] I never thought that the close, friendly ties between Israel and the United States stemmed from the Jewish vote. They resulted from the U.S. recognition that it serves their interest.

[Shilon] And has nothing changed after the Gulf war?

[Arens] The change could be for the better. The Americans learned here an invaluable lesson in Middle East reality.

[Shilon] As part of that, they have become closer allies of Syria and Saudi Arabia than of Israel.

[Arens] I never viewed us as a strategic asset. I have always thought that we share common interests with the United States, and this has not changed since the Gulf war.

[Shilon] Are you not afraid that we are closer today to a forced arrangement in our region?

[Arens] It is impossible to force on a friendly country solutions or steps that conflict with its interests. [passage omitted]

Peres Reaches Compromise With Rabin

TA0703194191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Shim'on Peres has gone back on his proposal that a conference along the lines of the Geneva Conventions 18 years ago serve as the opening move for negotiations with the Palestinians. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Peres retracted his original idea following a compromise reached with Yitzhaq Rabin. The two met this evening for more than an hour and reached a compromise which will be brought before the Labor Party on Sunday [10 March] for endorsement.

At Rabin's request, another article in Peres' plan was likewise amended. He consequently now talks about negotiations with representatives of the territories in two stages: first talks on an interim arrangement, and then discussions on the permanent solution.

Sources Clarify Shamir Regional Conference Stand

TA0803065391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Jerusalem is making it clear that even if Israel accepts a regional conference, this will not mean that it is willing to participate in an international conference. The regional conference merely means direct negotiations with several countries simultaneously. The Canadian foreign minister said yesterday in Jerusalem that he believes that the PLO will, after all, play a part in the political process. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

The idea of a regional conference is merely semantics, sources in the prime minister's bureau stressed last night. They believe that the regional conference the prime minister is ready to accept is just another form of direct negotiations. This will be a conference attended by representatives of Israel and the Arab countries, face to face, with no international auspices. The prime minister will not present this idea to James Baker, but he might accept it if it is raised.

Jerusalem is concluding the preparations for James Baker's arrival in Israel on Monday [11 March]. It appears that the working papers are being formed with no relation to what is expected to take place in the Cabinet session on Sunday. Jerusalem says that the argument of territories for peace, which is being pushed these days, constitutes a predetermination of the outcome of the negotiations, and we want negotiations without preconditions. [passage omitted]

Baker Visit Venue for Municipal Elections Proposal

TA0803122091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Mar 91 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Tzvi Gilat]

[Excerpts] Israel will propose holding municipal elections in the territories as a means of advancing its May 1989 peace initiative. This will be relayed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during his visit to Israel, which will start on Monday [11 March].

Remarks in favor of municipal elections have been made over the past few days by the defense and foreign ministers and by Minister Ari'el Sharon, who said in the cabinet meeting three days ago: "Municipal elections are the lesser of all evils."

Prime Minister Shamir yesterday told the EC troika that "an effort must be made to finally implement the idea of autonomy in the territories." He called on the EC to influence the Arab countries and the Palestinians, because this is the only way to advance toward peace.

As is well known, the government peace initiative of May 1989 contains four principles: the confirmation and strengthening of the Camp David accords; direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries; a plan for the rehabilitation of refugees in the region; and elections in the territories.

Jerusalem policymakers believe that municipal elections will help create an elected Palestinian representation without the need to incorporate in it representatives from East Jerusalem or the Palestinian leadership outside the territories.

Jerusalem believes that Baker will not be coming on his current tour with finalized ideas, but that his intention is to examine the basic stands of the parties, outline the issues through which negotiations could be promoted, find common interests, and identify flexible points in the stands of the various sides. [passage omitted]

Israel will aspire to get James Baker to make a declaration against the establishment of a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Visit by EC Ministers

Favor Negotiations First

TA0703140691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The foreign minister of Luxembourg said in Jerusalem that the EC is of the opinion that an international conference on the Middle East should only be convened at the final stage of the negotiations and should be preceded by talks between Israel and the Arab states. Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said that the PLO leaders who supported Iraq had caused their organization serious damage; however, it would have to be the Palestinians who would decide on their leaders. Poos was speaking at a joint news conference with Foreign Minister David Levi, held following the troika's meeting with Levi.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan learned that Foreign Minister Levi warned his European guests that Syria was continuing to sign arms deals. Levi revealed that Syria requested military aid from the Soviet Union and signed a large weapons agreement with North Korea and with other countries to receive missiles, among other things.

Meet Ministers, Palestinians

TA0703163091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] This afternoon the prime minister conferred with three leading EC ministers. Before that, the troika met with the defense minister and the foreign minister. The foreign minister of Luxembourg said that the EC believes that an international conference for the Middle East should be held only at the final stage of negotiations. He claimed that it should be preceded by talks between Israel and the Arab countries.

The three foreign ministers who represent the EC met with Palestinian leaders from the territories at the French Consulate in West Jerusalem. These people represented Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Communists. The Palestinian leaders told the European ministers that the PLO is their sole representative. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said that Europe is offering the Palestinians a great opportunity to realize international principles, not just in the Gulf. The three ministers sharply criticized 'Arafat's positions during the Gulf war.

The Palestinian figures are expected to hold a news conference right now, in which they will also comment on Bush's address last night.

More on Meetings With Shamir, Levi

TA0703175991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that now, after the Gulf war, an effort should be made to attain peace between Israel and the Arab countries and to establish stable and normal relations with them. In simultaneous efforts we should strive to finally implement the notion of autonomy for the Palestinians. The above remarks were made in the course of a meeting Mr. Shamir held with the foreign ministers of Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Italy who are visiting Israel. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 7 March reports that at that meeting "the prime minister called on the EC to rally all the peace-loving nations in support of the Israeli peace initiative." Jerusalem Radio's political correspondent is reported to cite Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos as saying that "peace should come from within the region. Europe and the United States cannot force peace."]

Earlier, the troika ministers conferred with Foreign Minister David Levi. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

It was a kind of general rehearsal in anticipation of the really important talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker next week. In the meeting between Foreign Minister Levi and the top officials from the Foreign Ministry on the one hand and the European troika ministers on the other hand, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos declared: We believe the international conference should be the final stage in the process. The superpowers should step in only after Israel and the Arabs hold talks and reach initial agreements. In any event, Europe recommends that Israel strike while the iron is still hot. In other words, it should act swiftly at its own initiative, free of pressure from any third party. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister David Levi reacted by saying: Peace is a sacrosanct Israeli goal. There is no need to push or pressure us in that direction.

[Begin Levi recording] Anything which could be perceived in the region as pressure on Israel or as the weakening of Israel will drive peace farther away and will give rise to the hope among certain regional elements that it is possible to bring Israel down on its knees. [end recording]

In the conference room, during their closed meeting, Levi expounded on Syria, which is currently signing major weapons deals also involving, among other things, missiles. Care must be taken that the eight Arab countries that participated in the anti-Iraq coalition not turn into an anti-Israel bloc, Levi admonished.

In the news conference after the meeting, the Luxembourg foreign minister was asked: What message did you bring from the meeting of those eight members in Damascus? His reply: The Arab countries' message is that a just war has ended and that it is now time for a just

peace: peace according to UN Resolutions 242 and 338, as in the case of the Kuwaiti takeover.

What about the PLO, he was asked. The PLO leaders who supported Saddam Husayn have severely damaged the organization, replied the Luxembourg foreign minister. Nevertheless, this says nothing about the future. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people will decide who their leaders will be. The PLO is not a write-off, and the international conference idea has not been dismissed from Europe's standpoint, said Poos.

Next week, Jerusalem will hear firsthand how the United States plans to reorganize the divided Middle East—a complex business.

Meet Palestinian Leaders

TA0703184891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Palestinian leaders in the territories today welcomed the U.S. President's address but said his intentions will be tested by his actions. Twelve notables from the territories conferred today with the EC delegation. Our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] [Gus] Twelve notables from the territories, representing the broad political range comprising the Unified National Command of the Uprising met today with the troika. They included Fatah supporters, as well as followers of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the communists. No Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member participated. They heard from the Europeans about the need for a peace process and about the linkage [previous word in English] between the Gulf and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; they voiced their support for the PLO, but also heard criticism of the positions that organization took. As Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis put it:

[De Michelis, in English] The problem with the PLO is not the representation of the Palestinian people; nobody's questioning this fact. We have a problem with the PLO—the leadership of the PLO—with respect to the political positions during the conflict. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 7 March, in a report by Dani Gur-Arye, adds that "the Palestinians could not demand the implementation of Security Council resolutions pertaining to them, the Italian foreign minister said, and at the same time oppose the resolutions pertaining to Kuwait. But none of the ministers were ready to rule out 'Arafat or any other PLO leader as a partner for negotiations. When Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj was asked later by reporters whether the foreign ministers urged the Palestinians to drop 'Arafat, Frayj said: You're dreaming."]

[Gus translates de Michelis remarks and continues] The Palestinians welcomed the EEC's position, but requested a mechanism for the peace process to actually implement it.

That was their position also about President Bush's proposals. In a news conference they held in East Jerusalem after the meeting with the foreign ministers, they asserted: Declarations are not enough; it is necessary to have action.

This is the gist of Faysal al-Husayni's views. He welcomed Bush's principles and expressed the hope that they would be implemented:

[Al-Husayni, in English] We are seeing in this scene, in these statements, a step forward, but at the same time we would like to see if he is talking about these rules, or these things as the rules which will control and judge the peace process in the future, or there are other rules. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 7 March, in a report by Dani Gur-Arye, adds that al-Husayni said that "while Bush's statement was commendable, it did not make reference of the PLO, and this fell short of what Palestinians wanted to hear."]

[Gus] The Palestinian leaders directed President Bush to the PLO. They will meet with Baker only if the PLO consents. Still, the issue is not currently on the agenda. Bush's ideas are only part of our demands, said Riyad al-Maliki, one of those personalities; and the near future, said Hanan 'Ashrawi, will serve as the test for the U.S. President's credibility and deeds. [end recording]

Arens Comments on Talks

TA0703185991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] After their meeting with the Palestinians, the three EC foreign ministers traveled to Tel Aviv for a meeting with Defense Minister Arens, held without the presence of advisers. Afterwards, the Dutch foreign minister said they had talked about cooperation between the EC and Israel and their proposals for economic aid to the territories, a move welcomed by Arens. Later, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami spoke to the defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Professor Arens, the EC still sees the PLO as a partner for peace negotiations with Israel. Israel's position, of course, is well known, but did you manage to change attitudes in your meeting with the three foreign ministers, the troika?

[Arens] Well, I just had a meeting with the three foreign ministers, but I have to tell you that they never mentioned the word PLO, so we didn't need to discuss it.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the question of leadership, of people to talk to with regard to the peace process, a peace settlement with Israel and the Palestinians?

[Arens] We're counting on being able to hold elections, as proposed by the Israeli peace initiative. And when

elections are held, then of course we will see the leadership that has a mandate that will be elected as is done as part of the democratic process. Without that, so far all we've seen is self-appointed leaders or people who have anointed themselves as being leaders.

[Ben-'Ami] Reports of municipal elections as opposed to general elections among the Palestinians in the territories—these are not correct then?

[Arens] No, I did not infer they are not correct.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you intending to hold municipal elections rather than a more general type of election?

[Arens] Well, I don't think it's a question of alternatives. Municipalities need to be run by elected representatives of the residents who live in the towns.

[Ben-'Ami] Some of the ministers in the government are calling for changes in Israel's peace initiative of May 1989. Do you also feel that there's room for changes in light of changed circumstances here in the region following the conclusion of the war with Iraq?

[Arens] No, I don't see any alternatives to the Israeli peace initiative. And I have not heard any alternative, either from the left or from the right. I think the four points in the Israeli peace initiative are absolutely essential to move the peace process forward.

[Ben-'Ami] Those points include peace negotiations with Arab states and Syria's name is coming up of late as being definitely a partner for peace. Have you had any indication either in your talks with the Europeans today or in recent days that Syria is now prepared to sit and talk with Israel?

[Arens] Well, the most natural thing for the Syrians to do, if they were prepared to do it, would be to inform us of that. And so far we've not received any such signal. We hope that there's a change of mind in Syria, that they want to abandon their policy of hostility and belligerency toward Israel, but so far we have not seen any sign of that. [end recording]

Arens on Syrian Armament 'Trend'

TA0703192191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that the Syrians received missiles from countries other than those that had previously supplied it with weapons. The trend in Syria is to procure additional weapons, the defense minister said, but he expressed his hope that they will become more moderate and that the Syrians would join the peace process. He pointed out that the EC delegation did not bring with it any message from Syria.

On the Iraqi missiles, the defense minister said that they still have both launchers and missiles, but he presumes they would hesitate to activate them because this would mean the resumption of the war.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Minister Arens was speaking after his meeting with the EC troika. One of the issues he discussed with them was the situation of the Palestinians in the territories.

More on Defense Minister's Meeting

TA0703204991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The EC troika met this evening with Defense Minister Mr. Moshe Arens in his office. That meeting ended a few minutes ago. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe is on the phone with her report:

[Menashe] From Israel's point of view, the Gulf war did not begin on 15 January or on 2 August, with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Rather, it started on 2 April, when Saddam Husayn threatened to attack Israel with chemical weapons. This is what the defense minister told the three EC foreign ministers. The troika met with the defense minister for approximately 30 minutes. They focused on the condition of the Palestinians in the territories, possibilities for economic cooperation between Israel and the Arab countries, and the economic problems of the Palestinians in the territories. The issue of disarmament did not feature in the meeting.

The foreign ministers of Luxembourg, Italy, and the Netherlands pledged financial assistance to Israel and the Arab population [of the territories].

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told us after the meeting that the ministers did not bring any message with them from Syria.

As for the consignment of improved Scud missiles in Syria, the defense minister said: Syria indeed has Scuds, and it is expected to receive additional missiles from other countries. It is in the process of building up its arsenal. I hope, the defense minister told us, that we will see a process of moderation on the Syrian side, and added: Let us hope that the postwar Syria will be less hostile and more friendly toward Israel and that it will decide to join the peace process and conduct peace negotiations with us, although we have not yet seen signs of this. This, he said, is a hope based on the fact that Syria joined the anti-Saddam coalition.

Minister Arens also addressed Iraq, saying that he believes the missile threat against Israel has been eliminated. Iraq possesses both launchers and missiles, he said, but I imagine that under the prevailing circumstances the Iraqis will hesitate to launch missiles because this would spell the resumption of the war. This, no doubt, is the last thing they want.

Troika Departs for Jordan 7 Mar

TA0703205891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The three EC foreign ministers have wound up their visit in Israel and have departed for Jordan. They

held meetings here today with the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister. In Amman, the three will be hosted by King Husayn.

Canadian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LA0703193891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark arrived in Israel for a visit. He arrived on a flight from Jordan. At a news conference in Amman, Clark said that he believes the PLO is the elected representative of the Palestinians, and that it should represent them in the peace contacts. He pointed out that Canada disagrees with the PLO on various issues and takes advantage of its ties with the organization to vent these differences.

The Canadian foreign minister will hold meetings with Foreign Minister David Levi and with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He will also confer with Shim'on Peres. This is the Canadian minister's third visit in Israel.

Meets Levi 8 Mar

LA0803061591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark will meet this morning with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Last night, at a working dinner with Foreign Minister David Levi, Clark said that eventually the PLO will play a role in the political process, but it is possible that the Palestinians will replace 'Arafat. He added that Israel's peace initiative could have a chance if the PLO did not terrorize the residents of the territories.

Meets With Palestinians

LA0803120491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni is currently holding a joint news conference in Jerusalem with Joe Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs. Arye Gus is there:

[Begin recording] [Gus] The news conference ended a while ago. The meeting between Joe Clark, Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, and the major league team of the residents of the territories lasted a long time. The Palestinian side sent all those who participated yesterday in the meeting with the EC troika: Faysal al-Husayni, Zuhayra Kamal, Ghassan al-Khatib, Jamil al-Tarifi, and others.

We have no details about the conversations that were held here in Faysal al-Husayni's residence. The Canadian secretary was likewise quite laconic after the meeting:

[Clark, in English] I appreciated very much your hospitality, your receiving me in your house, your frankness, and I look forward to working closely with you and other Palestinians in achieving a just resolution of the Palestinian issue.

[Gus translates Clark's remarks and continues] Faysal al-Husayni thanked his guest for his views. Evidently, Clark voiced sentiments that were pleasing to his ears. The press took advantage of the opportunity to ask him about the readiness of the residents of the territories to constitute a representation for negotiations:

[Al-Husayni, in English] Such a decision must come from our leadership. If the leadership will take this decision, so for sure we'll be ready.

[Gus translates al-Husayni's and continues] In any case, this decision will be made by the entire Palestinian people. He was asked: What about the residents of the territories? Well, he said, the residents of the territories are part of the Palestinian people, and they can represent that nation's desires; but, he emphasized, as I said before, this is the decision of the entire Palestinian nation. They must reach that decision. There is no question here of a go-ahead for talks with Israel or with anyone else; it is a question of making a decision.

The general situation gave Faysal al-Husayni cause for optimism; in fact, all the Palestinians who have participated in meetings in the past few days are optimistic. The Palestinian issue is once again on the agenda, he said, and this is an important step forward. We believe, said al-Husayni, that this is the time to solve the Palestinian problem, so as not to drag the Middle East into another period of instability.

This concluded the Palestinians' first round of meetings with international figures. Next week, the U.S. secretary of state will visit. It looks like there will be no meeting between the Palestinians and Baker and the Palestinian position will be expressed in the press and through demonstrations and other forms of protest. [end recording]

Reportage on Levi Visit to United Kingdom

LA0703154591

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister David Levi to the United Kingdom, including reports on his talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, please see the United Kingdom section of the 7 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Policeman Stabbed in Nabulus; Rioting in Jerusalem

LA0703134191 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0930 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A border policeman was stabbed in Nabulus this morning. He suffered moderate injuries to the back. The attacker, who stabbed the soldier in the area of Licensing Bureau in downtown Nabulus, managed to escape. The Army imposed a curfew on Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 7 March reports that "approximately 200 male and female students rioted on the main streets of East Jerusalem this afternoon. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the rioters hurled stones at cars, held processions, waved PLO flags, and even poured contact cement on Salah al-Din Street and set it on fire.

["Large Border Police forces were rushed to the scene and used rubber bullets to disperse the rioters. Nine male students and 13 females were arrested. Earlier, four Arab youths were arrested near Jaffa Gate after throwing stones at a Border Police patrol. One of the policemen was slightly injured in the hand. Those arrested were found in possession of a PLO flag."]

Iraq's Hammadi Makes Brief Stop in Amman

NC0703180391 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, March 7 (AFP)—Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi arrived here Thursday for an unannounced brief visit, the first by a senior Iraqi official since the end of the Gulf war last month, Iraqi diplomats said.

He met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran before leaving for Baghdad, informed Jordanian sources said.

Mr. Hammadi's visit comes after a visit to Iran as a special envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn where he held talks with officials on issues "of common interest," they said.

European Troika Delegation Arrives on Visit

NC0703233691 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The European troika delegation, which includes Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, and Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, arrived in Amman last night on a short visit to Jordan, during which they will meet with His Majesty King Husayn.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and a number of the EC states' ambassadors in Amman were present at the airport to receive the delegation.

Meets With King Husayn

NC0803065591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court yesterday evening the European Troika delegation under Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, the current chairman of the EC foreign ministers group. The delegation is currently on a tour of the region.

During the meeting, his majesty presented the Jordanian viewpoint on the developments which the Middle East region has experienced. His majesty affirmed the importance of implementing the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy on all cases of conflict, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty King Husayn also emphasized the role the Palestinians should assume in the efforts for a just and comprehensive settlement of this conflict.

His majesty said Jordan is ready to play a positive role in the realization of security and peace in the region.

On their side, the delegation members affirmed the need to preserve the cohesion of the international community for the implementation of international legitimacy on all causes, foremost being the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause, and to establish security and stability in the region for the sake of their political and economic dimensions.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the EC group's representative in Amman, attended the meeting.

King Congratulates Al-Asad on National Day

NC0703135091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. He congratulated him in his own name and on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Government and people on the anniversary of the national day of the fraternal Syrian Arab Republic. He wished his excellency good health and happiness and the fraternal Syrian people continued progress and prosperity.

Party Urges Protecting Nationals in Kuwait

NC0703141191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Mar 91 p 15

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Communist party has called for thwarting the imperialist-Zionist plan by working to finalize the cease-fire, immediately evacuate the imperialist invading forces from Iraqi land and all Arab countries, foil plans to impose security agreements on the region, and prevent the U.S.-Atlantic aggression on Iraq from exploiting the outcome in order to eliminate the Palestine question. The Communist Party called for pressure to resolve the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Golan Heights issues on the basis of international legitimacy; the implementation of international resolutions in the same determination that was applied to the Gulf issue; and the commitment to the provisions of the resolutions, especially regarding to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's constant rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establish an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative.

The statement also called for establishing a liberal mechanism for pan-Arab security, consecrating Arab wealth in the interest of integral pan-Arab development, and efforts to protect Palestinians and Jordanians in Kuwait from retaliation.

The party called for enacting the necessary democratic legislation to ensure public freedoms, especially freedom to form political parties, freedom of press and assembly, and freedom of expression, thought, and belief in order to entrench, safeguard, and defend democracy in Jordan.

Damascus Declaration Said To Entrench Arab Rift

NC0703142791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Mar 91 p 1

[Editorial: "New Arab Axis"]

[Text] We want to welcome the Damascus Declaration and its determination to Arabize the security of the Gulf region if this Arabization is not accomplished under the banners of the Western allied forces and if it does not entrench the existing rift in the Arab body.

Although this declaration was signed by foreign ministers of eight eastern Arab countries, and although this Arab axis was carried out within the framework of the so-called Arab League, we regrettably realize that yesterday's declaration has nothing to do with the league itself, especially since we know that this Arab institution was slaughtered during the crisis, and its corpse was kidnapped to Cairo.

Thus, we regard this new Arab axis appearing in the skies of Arab action, which is covered by black clouds, as one of the bitter results of foreign intervention in internal Arab affairs and another sign of the consecration of the present state of divisions in the Arab political life.

No doubt, this declaration—which attempts to tackle the Arab situation through half of the Arabs or even some of them—will not be able to bridge the existing differences, heal the wounds, and bypass this painful stage in the life of the nation, at a time when we desperately need to let go of hatred, pain, and much bitterness in order to face the demands of the new political stage.

Thus, we find ourselves recalling that there can be no salvation for this nation or any hope for its future generations without returning to the origins of things, by which we mean returning to genuine and comprehensive Arab solidarity based on higher pan-Arab interests away from any foreign plans, and directed to serve the greater Arab issues in Palestine, the Gulf, and Lebanon, or other issues that call for collective pan-Arab and joint Arab action.

Editorial Views Mitterrand Statement, French Role

NC0603042991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Mar 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Mitterrand's Statements Need Practical, Serious Applications"]

[Text] French President Mitterrand's recent statements on the Palestine question are positive. They should be read carefully, because they do not fall within the framework of America's total bias toward Israel's policy on any possible solution to the Palestine question following the end of the Gulf war.

President Mitterrand and his defense minister have spoken, for the first time, about the need to establish a Palestinian state and about the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights as part of a comprehensive settlement. Mitterrand also proposed a meeting of the Security Council at the level of the leaders of the member states to discuss the issue of convening an international conference to solve the Middle East problems.

The French president's positive statements, which were praised by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, should not be mere words. There is a dire need for France to start a serious move in coop ration with the Soviet Union and the PRC to apply international legitimacy to the Palestine question with the same determination by which that legitimacy was applied to Kuwait after the Security Council authorized the launching of a brutal aggression against Iraq—an authorization that can be described as a serious precedent for the United Nations.

As we welcome the new position expressed by Mitterrand, we still have lingering doubts as to whether these statements are aimed at absorbing the anger of the Arab street and beautifying France's face after its participation with imperialist America in committing the crime of the age against fraternal Iraq. This participation has reminded the Arab masses of the ugly face of French colonialism, from which our nation has suffered for a long time.

We had hoped up to the last moment that France would not involve itself in aggression against Iraq and that it would maintain the Arab respect it has won over the past three decades in connection with the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, although France has never risen to the level of our nation's aspirations.

France's independence from U.S. policy, as well as its attempt to formulate a European position, take into account Europe's interests in the Arab world; however, France's participation in the aggression against Iraq has regrettably destroyed all this.

We urge France to regain our respect, to rebel against U.S. hegemony, and to try to atone for its sin of committing aggression against Iraq. This will only be achieved through serious efforts to translate Mitterrand's statements into action on the ground. France should also decide to immediately withdraw the French forces, which are now participating in the invasion of southern Iraq, in order to translate Mitterrand's reference to the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and independence.

Army Conducts Sweeps, Searches in Greater Beirut

NC0703180591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Statement by the National Defense Ministry's Information Department; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Army units are carrying out sweeps and searches in the Greater Beirut area to confiscate weapons and military equipment and close the centers in which they are stored.

These operations come in implementation of the Cabinet's decisions to prevent military manifestations and armed presence other than legitimate forces.

The sweeps and searches cover the areas of the army deployment within the boundaries of Greater Beirut. They will continue until the Cabinet's decisions are implemented in full and all manifestations obstructing the return of normalcy are removed.

Fadlallah Fears U.S. Intervention in Iraq

NC0803112691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has pointed out that the consequences of the war in Iraq—as well as the oppression against the Iraqi people and Army due to the mismanagement of the war during its late stages—have created the atmosphere for the spontaneous launching of a revolutionary popular spirit, considering that this spirit was there in a latent capacity. Revolutionary and popular organizations managed to steer the course of this uprising in the direction they wanted, Fadlallah added.

His eminence went on to say that the Shiites of Iraq are experiecing extreme deprivation. Hence, there is the idea of granting the Shiites their rights, just as other sectors of the Iraqi people are being granted their rights.

His Eminence Shaykh Fadlallah expressed fears over a possible intervention by the United States in the Islamic uprising through the intelligence means the United States has in the region. He indicated that Washington might find that its interests would be best served if it deals with the Iraqi regime to strike at this Islamic movement.

Karami Government Accused of Military Repression

NC0703184191 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A new chapter of military repression by the Karami Government has been unfolding in al-Ashrafiyah targeting property and individuals. Under the cover of consolidating Greater Beirut, government units have been going into party offices and ordinary homes in al-Ashrafiyah, with assaults on individual persons giving way to attacks on private homes and property.

Homes were raided in the neighborhoods of al-Ashrifiyah, al-Nab'a, Burj Hammud, and al-Dawrah, with furniture and other items including electrical appliances being looted.

Following is a list of these abuses:

First, a unit of the 6th Brigade entered the home of George Makhluf in the commercial markets, forcing him to vacate it after manhandling and swearing at him. His home was then emptied of its contents.

Second, certain homes have been raided in al-Nab'a, including George al-Haj's and those of an al-Diyab family member and Michele Assas. In the meantime, four trucks hauled the luggage and furniture of the society for the development of the children of Dayr al-Ahmar.

Third, there have been raids in al-Dawrah and al-Ashrafiyah in which light items were carried off from the al-Qa' and Ras Ba'albak Phalangist offices. As of now, government authorities are still continuing their violation of citizens' homes and property.

Resistance Attack on Israeli Tank Detailed

NC0703195491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Hasbayya has reported that a resistance group detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli patrol was passing on a military road in the vicinity of Kawkaba Town in the eastern sector at 0600 today. A Merkava tank was damaged, and its crew members were wounded.

Consequently, an armored Israeli force combed the Kawkaba, [place name indistinct], al-Dallafah, and al-Ahmadiyah areas with machine guns.

Later on, the Islamic resistance issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack and saying that it had destroyed a tank and wounded its occupants.

Further on Visit by Iranian Vice President

Habibi Talks With Al-Asad

NC0703175391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] At 1200 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and their accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's ambassador in Tehran, and Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion during the meeting, as part of the continued consultations and contacts between the Syrian and Iranian leadership, dealt with the situation in the Gulf in the wake of the latest developments and the efforts by the two countries to deal with the new situation so as to serve the interests of peace and security for the region's people. During the meeting emphasis was placed on the importance of cooperation between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran towards achieving regional stability.

Dr. Habibi conveyed to his excellency the president greetings from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani. His excellency the president asked Dr. Habibi to convey greetings and best wishes to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Tehran Radio Reports Meeting

NC0803053091 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] First Vice President Mr. Hasan Habibi, who has gone to Damascus at the head of a political delegation to attend the third session of the high-level Syrian-Iranian joint committee, met and spoke with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday.

Our correspondent reports that the topics discussed during this four-hour round of talks, which was also attended by the two countries' foreign ministers, included the Persian Gulf crisis, recent regional developments, and ways of ensuring regional security in the Persian Gulf.

Explaining Syria's outlook on the regional situation and the recent developments, Mr. Hafiz al-Asad emphasized the effective and sensitive role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and added: The Islamic revolution in Iran has had a great impact on the revival of Islam in the world.

Mr. Habibi pointed to the all-around support of Western countries and of many regional countries for the Iraqi leadership during the eight years of the imposed war, and described these countries' past and present acts as contrary to the interests of the region and of Muslims. He pointed to the need for the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. Our first vice president added: It is the duty of the regional countries to ensure regional security. Western countries should not allow themselves to interfere in the Iraqi Muslims' right to determine their fate, and Iraqi and Kuwaiti territorial integrity should be preserved.

During this meeting the need to consolidate bilateral relations in various fields was also emphasized.

Khaddam-Habibi Talks Resume

NC0803134091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam resumed his talks with Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi at 1000 today. The talks, which are also being attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, are focusing on the situation in the Gulf, the consequences of the war in the region, and Syrian-Iranian ties.

IRNA Reports on Talks

LD0803123691 Tehran IRNA in English 1149 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, March 8, IRNA—Vice-presidents of Iran and Syria held their second round of talks here Friday morning. Iran's first vice-president Hasan Habibi who arrived here Thursday on a two-day official visit and vice-president of Syria 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed major regional issues, the Persian Gulf situation and Tehran-Damascus ties.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the two countries, including Iran's foreign minister who is accompanying Habibi in this visit.

Meanwhile, the latest developments in the Persian Gulf, Palestine issue and bilateral relations were discussed in the first round of talks here Thursday night in which Velayati and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' were also present. Both sides outlined their views concerning the Persian Gulf crisis and ways of establishing security in the region.

Khaddam, referring to the joint session of foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and those of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council in Damascus, said that the participants stressed importance and role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf.

Habibi said that presence of foreign forces in the region is not to the interest of the regional nations and stressed the need for withdrawal of the alien forces from the region.

Meanwhile, secretary general of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, Ahmad Jibril and several of his aides met with Habibi and Velayati at the Iranian Embassy here Friday. The Palestine issues and the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people, intifada, were discussed in the meeting.

Habibi held four hours of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad Thursday afternoon in which he said Western countries should not interfere in internal affairs of Iraq and that security of the region must be provided by the regional states.

Habibi is to pay an official visit to Turkey on Saturday [9 March].

Habibi Leaves Damascus 8 Mar

NC0803165691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 8 Mar (SANA)—Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi and his delegation left Damascus at 1530 today after a two-day visit to Syria.

Leading the farewell ceremony at Damascus International Airport was Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Dr. Habibi was also seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador in Tehran, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Saudi-Syrian Joint Committee Meetings Open

NC0703203891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Damascus—The Syrian-Saudi joint committee held its first meeting this morning. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led the Syrians, while the Saudis were led by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Attending for the Syrians were Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Education Minister Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi. Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir attended for Saudi Arabia. The meeting was also attended by senior officials from ministries, government organizations and establishments, and representatives from the chambers of commerce and industry in the two sisterly countries.

At the beginning of the session, al-Shar' made a speech in which he expressed his pleasure that the joint committee is holding a meeting of its full staff for the first time in Damascus. He stressed that the committee did not spring from a vacuum but crowned the longstanding historical ties between the two countries which are based on fraternity, amity, and sincere cooperation. He added: Whenever a decade passes or whenever we go through difficult events in our region, these relations remain solid, firm, and strong and proceed along the path of coordination and cooperation.

Al-Shar' noted the grave events that the region recently experienced as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, an unprovoked invasion that violated all the Arab, Islamic, and international charters. Al-Shar' added: We look forward with interest to this meeting, which reflects the fruitful and constructive cooperation for a better life for our two countries and our Arab nation as well as for the sake of peace and security in our two countries, the Arab homeland, and this region.

Concluding his speech, al-Shar' expressed confidence that this meeting will lay down a solid foundation and cornerstone for more comprehensive and expanded cooperation between Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Prince al-Faysal then made a speech in which he said this meeting is being held in this noble Arab country which we hold dear and during critical and difficult circumstances for us. This requires cooperation to stand up to the challenges facing our nation and our interests and to confront whatever harms the Arab nation and poses a threat of division to its future. [passage omitted]

Minutes Signed 7 Mar

NC0703231791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The minutes of the meetings of the joint Syrian-Saudi committee were signed today. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' signed for the Syrian side, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal signed for his country.

Press Statement Issued

NC0703230291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A press statement was issued at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Syrian-Saudi committee. The statement notes that the meeting was a result of the strong fraternal relations and the profound historical ties between Syria and Saudi Arabia, in implementation of the guidelines of President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and in accordance with the provisions of the agreement establishing the joint Syrian-Saudi committee.

The statement says that both sides reviewed their cooperation in all fields, including politics, economy, investment, industry, agriculture, technology, labor, health, education, culture, information, sports, and youth care.

The two sides exchanged views on various Arab, Islamic, and international issues and expressed their satisfaction over the liberation of the state of Kuwait and the return of the legitimate authority to that country. The two sides expressed full support for the State of Kuwait in all fields to achieve security in that country, promote regional stability, and maintain the safety and independence of all countries in the region.

The Saudi side expressed its appreciation for Syria's honorable, strong, and firm position in solidarity with its sister Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

The joint committee warmly welcomed the Damascus Declaration and viewed it as a great stride on the road of joint cooperation.

The two sides pledged continued work for the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The two sides expressed their pan-Arab and historic commitment to safeguarding the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction over the steps taken by the Lebanese Government to extend its authority over the country, including the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon.

The two sides emphasized the need to make Israel comply with the UN Security Council Resolution No. 425 calling for its withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

With regard to the economic field, the two sides asserted that the trade and economic agreement concluded by both countries in 1972 is an appropriate framework for promoting economic, trade, and investment-related cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed to take all necessary measures to guarantee the smooth implementation of this agreement, the realization of its goals, and the removal of all obstacles facing its implementation.

The committee approved the appropriate measures to boost trade between the two countries. The two sides approved the establishment of a joint council for Saudi and Syrian businessmen in order to revive the role of the private sector in both countries.

The two sides discussed cooperation in industry, agriculture, and irrigation and made the appropriate recommendations for enhancing cooperation in these fields.

A cultural and media agreement was signed by the two sisterly countries.

The two sides examined ways to promote their existing cooperation in the field of transport in order to facilitate the movement of merchandise and passengers, and improve the service of the transport facilities linking both countries to meet the desired standards.

The two sides also reviewed the aspects of cooperation in the fields of post and telecommunications and made the appropriate recommendations.

The two sides agreed to hold their next meeting in Riyadh in Rabi' al-Awwal 1412 Hegira, corresponding to September 1991.

Statement Stresses Support for Kuwait

LD0703195491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Kingdom and Syria stressed their complete support in all fields for the State of Kuwait in achieving its security, and also for promoting the region's stability and safety and its countries' independence.

This came in a joint statement released today following the conclusion of the first session of the Saudi-Syrian joint committee, which was chaired by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, on the Saudi side, and by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the Syrian side.

The statement said that in the field of political coordination and consultation, the two sides exchanged views on all Arab, Islamic, and international issues and expressed their welcome for the liberation of the state of Kuwait and the return of its legitimacy. In this context, the Saudi side expressed its appreciation of the honorable, strong, and decisive Syrian stance beside Kuwait and all the Arabian Gulf states.

The Saudi and Syrian sides reaffirmed their countries' adherence to their pan-Arab and historic commitment to secure the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right of self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil.

They reaffirmed the adherence of the Kingdom and Syria to work toward achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, leading to the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Saudi and Syrian sides expressed their satisfaction at the steps taken by the Lebanese government in spreading its legitimacy over its territories, including the deployment of the Lebanese army forces in southern Lebanon. They stressed their determination to enable the Lebanese legitimacy to implement all the clauses of the Ta'if accord on national harmony. They also stressed the need to compel Israel to implement Security Council resolution 435 or 325 [as heard] calling for its withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

In the field of economic, trade, and investment cooperation, the two sides stressed that the trade and economic agreement in force between the two countries, signed in 1972, constitutes a suitable framework for bolstering economic, trade, and investment cooperation between the two countries. They also decided to take all the appropriate measures and steps to implement this agreement in the best way possible, realize its objectives, and remove all the obstacles which obstruct its implementation.

Within the framework of the joint committee, a cultural and media agreement was also signed. The two sides reviewed means for developing cooperation between them in the field of transport in order to facilitate the movement of goods and people.

The two sides also agreed to hold the next session in Riyadh in September 1991.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a speech at the start of the meetings of the committee. He said: This meeting is being held in extremely crucial and critical circumstances. Its impact is aimed at our nation and common interests. It is also being held to confront anything that could harm our peoples and expose their present and future to the dangers of division.

His royal highness added: We are meeting today after the liberation of Kuwait, the recovery of its independence and sovereignty, and the restoration of its legitimate government have been achieved for the fraternal people of Kuwait, with God's help and assistance and with the solidarity of their brothers and friends.

India

Shekhar Addresses Nation on Resignation

BK0803115991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1503 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on 7 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] My countrymen! Just about four months back I requested you to join me in the endeavor to find solution of the difficult problems that the nation was facing at that time. There was the atmosphere of mutual distrust, discord, people were fighting each other. Our streets were the scene of everyday violence. There was an atmosphere of violence in Punjab, Kashmir was in the throes of agony, there were problems all over the country and people were fighting each other. At that time I thought that the atmosphere was not conducive for the mid-term polls and I took upon myself the responsibility to cool down the tempers. I had no illusions about my capacity, but I was sure of your cooperation. I was confident of your help and support and blessings, and I thought that being given a correct approach, the people will respond. I am glad to say that when the appeal was made to them, when we approached them in right earnest, the people responded. I do not say that the problems have been solved. I do not claim that violence has been eliminated from our social life, but the tension has eased to a great extent. And the people were fighting at that time against each other. Now people have come for a dialogue. They understand the meaning of mutual discussions. They think that the solution of problems can be found out by debating issues on the table. This in itself is a great change in the climate and people are feeling that change.

But unfortunately the basic problems remain. The problem of poverty, the problem of growing disparity, the problem of illiteracy, the problem of disease, the problem of regional imbalances, the problem of feeling of the people getting discriminated is haunting the mind of our people. Our scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people feel that they have not been given the opportunity to lead the life of dignity. Our backward class people feel that they are not getting their share from the society. Our minorities feel apprehensive. It is not only in this country, but all over the world minorities, whether that of religion or of language or of ethnic consideration, they feel aggressive when they feel that they are being discriminated against. This is why in our Constitution it was provided that we should give special facilities to our minorities. But in spite of all our claims and in spite of all our assurances, they are not feeling assured that they can lead a life of dignity and honor. It is our responsibility to create a feeling among the people who have been so far oppressed, exploited and downtrodden that the society will take care to fulfill their aspiration and urges, because if we do not change our attitude toward the aspirations and urges of the poorer sections of the society, the only other course open for us is to use the coercive power of the state to silence them. But it is in no way the method to be applied in a parliamentary democracy, surely not in a country where Lord Buddha and Mahatama Gandhi gave the message of peace and nonviolence. Unfortunately, these sections are getting frustrated— frustration leading to despair—and the result is that from Tamil Nadu from Tripura, everywhere [there are] tribal belts under unrest.

In these situations, we tried to take some corrective measures. Because we are a society of scarce resources, we have to decide whether these resources will be spent for the benefit or for the glory or for the pleasure of the chosen few, or these resources will be deployed for giving the basic minimum needs to our people. In a country where more than 55 percent are illiterate, where more than 30 percent are below the poverty line, where millions of our young men and women are without jobs, they want to do something for the society, to produce something, and to lead the life of dignity, they are being denied this privilege. In this society austerity is just not a slogan, but it is a strategy to generate the willpower of the people. Societies are changed, nations make progress, not because using the bullet to coerce the people, nor using the ballot to get power by hook or crook. But societies are built by generating the willpower of the people. This willpower cannot be generated unless and until we decide to invest in men and to spare our resources for meeting the basic minimum needs of our people.

Time and again I impressed upon people in this country, and especially those who are the privileged, that they should understand the dire need of saving every penny in order to meet the basic need of our people. But it is not an easy task. It is easy to talk about it, but very difficult to implement it. When certain policy orientations are made, people get panicky about it and sometimes they become aggressive.

When last December we took over the government of this country, we were economically on the brink of disaster. In order to arrest the rot, we had to take certain measures. Certain taxes were imposed—of course, not on the poorer sections, but on the people who were in a position to pay. But they did not take it easy. But I don't bother about all these agonies of the privileged few. What I feel concerned that many of us, who are the workers in the political field and many of us who claim to be arbiter of the destiny of this nation, don't understand the implications of the policies that have been pursued for years in this country. We are responsible for bringing this country on the brink of disaster. I don't want to give you a message of despair. I know the vitality of Indian people, I know the resilience of our economy. This country cannot be destroyed by the follies and by the mistaken moves taken by the politicians in the past. We can correctly hold situation. But for that, we require a determined action, a dedicated attempt to see that we address ourselves to the problems of the poor, and in that lies the future of this country.

All these steps were to be taken. But what happened? That we are diverting our attention to the minor problems. Whenever we take a position on one issue or the other, we try to give an impression to the people in this country and outside as if India is helpless. India is being pressurized by one or the other. These are the people who suffer from inferiority complex. When we deal with the nations of the world, we deal with them on the basis of equality. We have taken a decision that we shall not try to pressurize any small nation. But we shall not be pressurized by any big power in this world. This was the position taken by my government when we were dealing with the difficult situation in the world. But some people raised hue and cry without any basis. The government only followed the norms that had been adopted by this country for years altogether. There was no question of compromise on our basic principles. But the national interests are always to be taken into consideration. We cannot ignore the national interests just for giving high-sounding slogans without any meaning, either affecting the international situation or doing any good to this country.

But these matters can be debated. There can be difference of opinion. But one should be always ready to follow certain norms. In a parliamentary democracy, we have to keep some restraints on ourselves. I am sorry to say that during last two-three days, what happened in the parliament is shameful. And for that, I hold myself responsible. Because being the prime minister of this country, I cannot absolve myself. I depended upon the support and cooperation of certain friends who behaved in a manner which in no way can be considered for the growth of healthy democratic tradition. What to talk of healthy descent democratic tradition? Even it is not worthy of a civilized behavior in any democracy. But yesterday, a situation was created. I shall not go into the details of the problem. But on a trifle [issue] the party that was supporting the government decided to keep out of the house and the only course open before me was to see that motion of thanks on the president's address is defeated on the floor of the house. You know, the president is the custodian of our constitution. He discharges his constitutional obligations by addressing the nation through the joint session of parliament. It is obligatory on the part of the government to see that motion of thanks is passed. But a situation was created where it was not possible for me to get that motion passed in the house. Under those circumstances, I had no other option but to tell the speaker that I am going to resign from the prime ministership of this country. I know that a constitutional crisis has been created because of the irresponsible behavior of certain people.

For last one week or so, I was discussing this with my colleagues. Many of my friends and colleagues were annoyed over it. But I said it is not the question of self-respect of an individual. It is the question of the respect of the whole nation. It is the question of the dignity of the office of the president. It is the question of observing the norms of the constitution. So, we have no other option but to have self-restraint. And under that self-restraint, we tolerated everything.

But situation became impossible. Because parliamentary democracy is the game of number. We could dare not create the number. Under these circumstances, I resigned from the prime ministership of this country. The president is finding out the way how to get over the constitutional crisis that has been created because of the irresponsible behavior of certain persons of a certain political group in the parliament. Friends, but we should not get to despair and frustration. Situation is bad today. But there is enough scope for changing the situation. And the ultimate decision is that of the people. Because the lesson given to us by Mahatma Gandhi, because the message was given to young people by Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narain when he said that the real power is with the people. Now people has to decide what course the history will take in this country. If you have to give a new course to history, the people should make a determined bid. The young people should come forward to organize themselves. Because this nation does not belong to few politicians who hold the high office in this country. This nation does not belong to the prime minister or people who aspire to be prime minister. This nation belongs to 850 million people of this country, and this is why I have come to you. I know during the last four months, I have come to understand that we have a system which can tide over all the crisis. We have a bureaucracy upon which we can depend. There has been a tendency among the people, especially those who are politicians, to pass on every responsibility upon the bureaucracy. During the last four months, it is my experience, without being contradicted or any sense of exaggeration, I may say that they are one of the most patriotic sections of our population. They can give advice. But if politicians try to use bureaucracy in order to fulfill their whims, they get confused. If there is no confusion, if there is clarity of vision, we can do a lot.

Our economy has got enough resilience. I know our nation has been bestowed by the nature with enormous wealth. Our natural wealth is enormous, our manpower is there, our managers, our workers in the public sector or private sector, our bureaucracy are par excellence. I think that if we mobilize all these resources with a determination, that it is not the personal ambition that will come in our way, but it is the good of the nation that is our goal, then I think we can retrieve the situation. I hope and trust that people will not get to frustration. I assure you friends that if there are problems, those problems can be sorted out. Problems can be sorted out by mutual discussion. This is why I made an appeal that discard the path of violence. Don't go for killing each other. Come for mutual discussion, debate, and I can claim to a certain amount of satisfaction that during last three, four months, situation has changed. People are ready to talk, people are ready to discuss, people are ready to cooperate with each other to find solutions of the difficult problems. But this atmosphere has been vitiated by the irresponsible behavior of certain people.

Under the circumstances, I think, there is no other choice but to come to you to get your help and support in order to clear the confusion that has been created. I hope and trust that people will understand their responsibility and they will respond in order to find a solution of this problem. I assure you friends that I am quite confident about the future of this country. I am optimistic because the people of this country are the strength of today and they are also the hope of tomorrow. Upon their shoulder lies the future of tomorrow's India. Let us look forward for a brighter and glorious future. I hope and trust that in coming few days, the president, who is the custodian of our constitution, will find solution of the constitutional problem and the people will be called upon to give their judgment on the present situation and will also give a message of hope and confidence and trust to the nation for the future. I thank you all for the cordiality and thank you all for the affection that you have shown to me wherever I went in this country. I wish you very best future. Jai Hind. [Hail India].

Congress-I Party Criticizes Address

BK0803155591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The Congress-I has critized certain parts of Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar's address to the nation last night. Objecting to certain points in the speech, the party spokesman said that the prime minister had unnecessarily drawn the office of the president into the matter by claiming that a defeat of the motion of thanks [for the president's address to parliament] affected the dignity of the office of the president. [The Congress-I spokesman] said the president's address to the parliament was a statement of the government's policy and passing or not passing the vote of thanks had nothing to do with the dignity of the president.

Congress-I Accused of Seeking Removal of Leaders

BK0703162191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Addressing the Janata Dal-S parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar has charged the Congress-I with seeking the removal of the Janata Dal-S general secretary, Mr. Om Prakash Chautala, the Haryana chief minister, and the Delhi lieutenant governor on the surveillance issue. He said when this was not acceptable, the removal of at least the Haryana home minister, Mr. Sampat Singh, was sought. He accused the Congress-I of making an issue out of a nonissue, as he put it.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed the view that the midterm polls are the only way out at present and said his party will contest more than 500 seats on its own. Though there have been feelers from the Congress-I and the Janata Dal for seat adjustment, no discussions are on at present, he added.

BJP Asks for Early Decision on Dissolution

BK0803094191 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] As major political parties continue consultations on the political situation, some leaders met the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhawan [President House] this morning. They include the finance minister, Yashwant Sinha; and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr. L.K. Advani and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. Mr. Yashwant Sinha has understood to have discussed the matter of getting the vote-on-account and other financial business passed in the Lok Sabha. Mr. L.K. Advani told our correspondent that the BJP leaders impressed upon the president to take an early decision on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. He said that in their 30-minute meeting, they also informed Mr. Venkataraman that the BJP will cooperate on the floor of the Lok Sabha in passing the finance bill so that no constitutional impasse is created. He said that they informed the president that they were not putting any condition to pass the vote-on-account. The president is continuing consultations with constitutional experts to take a decision on the matter.

Parties Favor Shekhar in Office Until New Polls

BK0703170091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The National Front, left parties, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the ruling Janata Dal-S have requested the president not to permit backdoor entry of any new government at the center but to allow Mr. Chandra Shekhar to continue as the caretaker prime minister till fresh elections are held. The unanimous request was conveyed at the meeting of all political parties convened by the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, in New Delhi today at the insistence of Mr. Venkataraman. The meeting was held to formulate ways for passing urgent financial and other legislations in parliament to avert any constitutional crisis in the wake of Mr. Chandra Shekhar's resignation. The Congress-I walked out in the middle of the meeting alleging that the opposition is trying to put conditions on the president. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, later told newsmen that it has been agreed by all parties to have the sitting of the house on Monday [11 March] and the pass the bills.

Briefing newsmen, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said that the opposition parties have a sense of uncertainty in their mind on some issues which they wanted to be conveyed to the president. The misgivings, he said, are based on the conduct of the Congress-I. While Mr. Advani clarified that the plea to Mr. Venkataraman is not a condition for passing the vote on account, the National Front and left parties were noncommittal about it.

Professor Madhu Dandavate told newsmen we will cross the bridge when it comes. He said the front and its allies

do not want any confrontation with the president, but are entitled to know Mr. Venkataraman's mind on the key issues of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and announcing the polls.

In a joint statement, the National Front and the left parties also pointed out that a prompt response from the president will create the proper climate to complete the budgetary and other important business expeditiously.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, who is also the spokesman of the Janata Dal-S told reporters that his party and other opposition parties had sought an assurance from the Congress-I that it will not stake a claim to form a caretaker government. He said the Congress-I representatives only reiterated their stand that they are for mid-term election, adding that their party would like to come to power with a mandate. The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, met the president at Rashtrapati Bahavan [President's House] in the evening. Senior Congress-I leaders, Mr. Dinesh Singh and Mr. Shiv Shankar; Mr. P.L. Handu of National Conference; and Mr. Indrajit, of the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] also called on the president later.

President Consults Legal Experts on Resignation

BK0803035891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] With the president, Mr. Venkataraman, yet to decide the question of dissolution of the Lok Sabha, hectic political activities continue in New Delhi. The president continued consultations with constitutional experts yesterday on options available to him in the wake of the Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar's resignation. Rashtrapati Bhawan [President's House] sources say that the president held a series of consultations with the Attorney General Mr. Ramaswamy, and noted jurists Mr. K.K. Renugopal, Mr. F.S. Nariman, and the former attorney general, Mr. K. Parsaran.

Haryana Chief May Resign Over Surveillance Issue

BK0703131291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Haryana chief minister, Mr. Hukum Singh, has offered to resign if any inquiry proves the Haryana government's involvement in the surveillance issue. He informed the state assembly today that this has been conveyed to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Replying to a two-hour debate on a call- attention motion on the subject, the home minister, Mr. Sampat Singh, said that two head constables of the state CID [Criminal Investigation Department] were apprehended near the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] office in Delhi on the second of this month. He said preliminary inquiry showed that they were posted at Rohtak and Nannor. But they had gone to Delhi to meet the Congress- I leaders—Mr. Sultan Singh and Mr. Bhajan Lal—in connection with some personal work. Both the head constables were later suspended as they were not on duty and went to Delhi. [sentence as heard] An inspector was also suspended as he had given wrong information about the head constables.

Punjab Spokesman Denies Akali Dal Chief Arrested

BK0803043491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] A Punjab Government spokesman has denied that the Akali Dal chief, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, and some others were arrested in Amritsar yesterday. The spokesman clarified that there was only a preventive from proceeding to village (Mata Ke Bhoj) in Amritsar District for apprehension of breach of peace.

Kidnapped Daughter of Kashmir MP Released

BK0803083091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] In Kashmir, Mrs. Nahid, the kidnapped daughter of Professor Saifuddin Soz, MP [Memeber of Parliament], has been released. She reached home in Chanakpura Srinagar around 10 this morning. An official spokesman confirmed the release of Mrs. Nahid but gave no further details. Our correspondent reports that Mrs. Nahid's release came after prolonged negotiations between the kidnappers and state government through some intermediaries. Mrs. Nahid was kidnapped on 27 February.

Talking to our correspondent, Professor Saifuddin Soz said this safe release of his daughter has brought mental relief to his family and well-wishers. Mrs. Nahid's kidnapping evoked widespread condemnation and even some of the militant outfits described it as an immoral act.

Iran

President Comments on 'Popular Revolt' in Iraq

NC0803093191 Paris AFP in English 0918 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 8 (AFP)—Iranian President 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Friday urged Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn to "submit to the will of his people".

Mr. Rafsanjani, addressing weekly Friday prayers at Tehran University, said any attempts "to repress a popular revolt" reportedly underway in several Iraqi towns would be the Iraqi leadership's "last mistake".

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf

LD0703172991 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent today, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov outlined Soviet policies on international and Persian Gulf issues.

[Unidentified correspondent] Referring to the Soviet role in the Persian Gulf crisis and the Security Council resolutions, he said: We made every effort to convince Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait under suitable conditions. But, unfortunately, the Iraqi leadership did not accept, and the Iraqi leadership is responsible for what has occurred in the region.

Regarding the security plan proposed by the United States, he said: We should examine the basis of the U.S. security plan for the region and how it could be accomplished, and then we can comment on it. However, the Soviet Union intends to play its role in the region. In that connection we have had talks with the British prime minister and with the Iranian authorities. He added: What is important to us, more than anything else, is that the people of the region should determine the region's security structure.

Speaking about a possible change of government in Iraq and the future of the 1972 agreement between Iraq and the USSR, he said: The agreement was signed between the two countries, not between the two governments. It will remain in force in the future.

Turning to the recent remarks made by Mr. Gorbachev's adviser about the Soviet Government's opposition to the coming to power of fundamentalists in Iraq, he said: Gorbachev's adviser was expressing his own opinion. But the general policy of the Soviet Government is to respect the decisions of the Iraqi people.

On the possible changes in the region and the USSR's role in the future government of Afghanistan he said: The situation in Afghanistan has reached an impasse militarily. We believe talks would be the best and quickest way of resolving the Afghan issue.

About unrest in the USSR and the independence movements in some republics, he said: The unity and solidarity of the Soviet republics will be put to a referendum on 17 March. Republics not taking part in the referendum and opposing it would possibly undergo a transition period, for about five years, in accordance with Supreme Soviet approval. And if successful in that transition period, they will be given independence, based on a majority vote and talks between the central government and those republics.

Editorial Argues for Reparations From Iraq

NC0703211091 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Any Change in Iraqi Government Up To Its People"]

[Text] The developments in the Persian Gulf are happening very fast. Multinational forces are intent on inflicting the final blows on the Iraqi war machine as Saddam Husayn has lost control of the war.

Though Iraq has suffered heavily and sustained great losses so far the Iraqi president has not yet ordered the use of chemical and binary weapons against the allied forces. If binary weapons were deployed by Saddam when in Kuwait, the U.S.-led forces could have held that as a pretext to retaliate with more deadly weapons. But even if the Iraqi president feels justified to deploy such weapons in defense of the land of Iraq, it is not known if such weapons could cause a determining impact on the war.

In the meantime, the allied forces are insisting on Iraq accepting all the 12 U.N. Security Council resolutions against Baghdad which apart from 660, accepted by Saddam are mainly based on resolutions 662 and 674. [Resolution] 662 rejects any claim by Iraq on the Kuwaiti territory and 674 refers to war reparations and holds Iraq responsible for the damages and losses inflicted as a result of its invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The anti-Iraq coalition are making use of 674 as a pressure leverage to seek the overthrow of the Iraqi regime, as it seems the ousting of Saddam from power stands on the top of the list prepared by the U.S.-led forces.

At the present juncture, two important factors need to be brought into consideration:

1. It must not be forgotten that if Kuwait sustained damages and losses as a result of Iraqi aggression for seven months, for Iran, it was eight years and on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolution 598, Iran must also receive war reparations.

If the multinational forces are calling for implementation of Security Council resolutions, there must be no difference between Resolutions 598 and 674.

2. Owing to the possibility of the downfall of the Iraqi regime, it must be warned that the allied forces have no right to decide about the future government in Iraq. The right of self-determination lives with the people of Iraq, a right which they have been deprived for years by the Ba'th Party. This includes some 60 percent of the Iraqi population, who are Shia Muslims amd who, so far, have not been allowed the least role in the Iraqi system of government.

Editorial on Security Council's 'Bully Members'

NC0703212991 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "(In) Security Council"]

[Text] Six weeks after Operation Desert Storm was launched against Iraq, the United Nations is in the process of voting on a U.S.-inspired resolution spelling out conditions Iraq must meet if a provisional ceasefire in the Persian Gulf is to become permanent. President

George Bush announced the suspension of all combat operations Thursday in the war he started with full U.N. backing.

The attitude of the world body during the one and a half months of fighting that began on the pretext of Iraq's invasion of a small and vulnerable neighbor was not unexpected. Though the gross inaction by an organization responsible for global peace is a serious cause for concern. [sentence as published] How the United Nations headed by Javier Perez de Cuellar intends to ensure peace and stability of a region torn by a decade of inhuman warfare managed, directly or indirectly, by the five veto powers of the Security Council is the most difficult question to answer today.

Whatever the U.N. may be associated with in the past, the present reality is that the destruction of one of its members (Iraq) was caused by its tacit approval. This does not mean that America would have acted differently in the absence of various Security Council resolutions against Iraq. The argument against the organization is based on the fact that its stamp of approval gave the entire offensive a coating of legality. Governments that assisted the U.S.-led offensive in one way or another justified their actions by constantly referring to the anti-Iraq resolutions passed by the 15-member council.

At this stage it will be pointless to accuse the U.N. or its affiliated organizations of not keeping the peace in one of the world's most strategic areas. The power, influence and authority of this institution has long been under suspicion by oppressed masses who over the years have failed to realize the terms and conditions under which it passes resolutions.

More often than not the U.N. in general and the Security Council in particular has acquiesced to big power whims. This is more true when international conflicts and/or their resolutions affect the 'interests' of the arrogant powers. For instance the council was deadly silent when Iraqi President Saddam Husayn set out to redefine his country's border with the Islamic Republic in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. But the same council declared war against the same leader when he rejected the colonial borders imposed by the British between Iraq and Kuwait.

The concept of upholding international rules and regulations in the framework of the U.N. Charter is more in tune with the evil designs of military and economic powers rather than the lofty goal of maintaining law and order. Those who disagree with this thinking should impartially assess developments in the Middle East over the past decade. The Security Council has thus far been used as a tool to clobber nations that seek peace, security, law and order independent of arrogant powers. This practice has been part and parcel of state policy objectives in Washington, Moscow, Paris and London. China, another veto-exercizing power in the Security Council has, from time to time, also seen to it that its yes or no votes do not clash with its national and international interests. This is more rule than exception.

Few doubt that Iraq will be able to rebuild in six decades all that it lost in six weeks. [sentence as published] The economic, social and military fabric of the Muslim nation was devastated by a coalition of 30 countries which included the world's top military powers who sent troops alone with the state-of-the-art warfare technology to level Iraq.

All that was done or undone since January 17 up till Thursday would be different had the world's peace-loving masses cared to challenge the veto power of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Unfortunately this was not done and the chances of it ever being done are next to zero.

With respect to major international conflicts and their peaceful resolutions neither has the Security Council nor its five bully members individually accomplished anything worthy of respect. Force, intimidation and threats have normally taken the place of understanding, tolerance and negotiation when big power 'interests' are at stake. The newest Security Council resolution with regard to the U.S.-Iraq war will be another manifestation of 'might is right' and do nothing to address the legitimate rights and grievances of the Iraqi people.

Editorial Encourages 'Popular Government' in Iraq

NC0703194291 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Real Change in Iraq Can Come From Popular Based Government"]

[Text] There are reports of uprisings reflecting a sporadic state of unrest and of protest demonstrations among Iraqi people. The reports are mainly streaming in from the southern part of that country, particularly al-Basrah, the second largest Iraqi city. Although reliable sources have not yet confirmed the reports the present state of affairs in that country and the pathetic pass in which the Iraqi leadership finds itself in gives rise to the strong possibility of drastic change in the political structure of that country.

Now again, Saturday's ratification of a resolution in the U.N. to the effect that Iraq should implement all previous 12 resolutions, indicates that some of those resolutions including Resolution 674 which urges Iraq to pay reparations to Kuwait, could in itself be used as a pressure lever against Baghdad.

However, if a change does occur in the Iraqi ruling system, the new government can take recourse to a principle in international law on "change of circumstances" and on that basis deny its financial obligations by way of reparations and other debts. A move of this kind may not be too far-fetched a possibility.

Life in Iraq if it is to continue stably again is dependent on the change in the structure of the ruling system there. But, the issue Iraqi people should keep in mind at this crucial juncture is that they should not be dictated to and follow instructions by the aliens. If a change is to take place in Iraq it should not be confined to cosmetic reform.

It will be a big blunder and simplemindedness to assume that the cause of all the misfortunes that have befallen the Iraqi people has emanated from the person of 'Saddam Husayn' and attributable only to him. Even if Saddam did not exist, the Ba'th Party and its extreme sectarian tendencies would no doubt lead to the emergence of another individual like Saddam.

In fact, the Iraqi people if they aim at real emancipation should seek to place in power a popular government, one which would preclude a role to the failed Ba'th Party and also prevent any large or leading role to the present Iraqi army in its programs.

To encourage or condone in any way elements from the other wings of the Ba'th Party, or perhaps from the army which has been kept strictly controlled by the Ba'th leadership and away from the political power center, will only seem like deception aimed at pushing forward and fostering the interests of the world powers and regional governments who have had vested interests in the pursuit of the war that is now almost at an end.

Editorial on Iraq's Postwar Position

NC0703212691 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "In the Aftermath of the War"]

[Text] Saddam Husayn embarked on his Kuwaiti adventure for economic and political gains. On the eve of the exhausting, grinding and extremely costly Iraqi-imposed war with Iran, his country had some $35 b [billion] in foreign exchange reserves. Upon its conclusion, Iraq was in debt on the order of between $60- 80b.

Too, Saddam wanted his country to be a political power. As one analyst put it, when he realized that his unfruitful confrontation with his eastern neighbor gave him little headway in this respect, he simply decided to seize the resources to make Iraq the predominant power in the Persian Gulf.

In this respect, Saddam Husayn became the ultimate scapegoat of the West and imperialism. He decided to take over and own the bank instead of simply borrowing from it and in the process made the region vulnerable to foreign meddling and domination.

Re[garding] America and its allies, who rushed to the Middle East on the pretext of upholding international law and world order, their reasons could likewise be considered economic and political.

America wants to have its finger in every pie. With Iran's vehement protests over its influence in the Persian Gulf region, it went to war to entrench itself. More so, prior to the conflict, the U.S. was having difficulties with its European friends over a variety of issues and its world leadership was being challenged. With its call to arms, it was able to assert itself, order its allies to go to the fronts, to give cash assistance and to shut up when their rhetoric clashed with U.S. policy.

And of course, for the oil. The West wants access to this resource, [to] ensure its continuous flow and slake the relentless thirst of the economy. Economic reasons do not simply end with the covetousness for this resource. America and friends had to go to war to revive their receding economies. War would resuscitate their depressed arms industries and revive their sagging investment markets.

America was lukewarm in accepting an abrupt end to the hostilities and it pounded Iraq deliberately with air assaults, not to "soften the lines for a ground attack" but simply to destroy. Saddam again played into the U.S.' hands by doing his share of burning Kuwaiti oilfields and pursuing a "scorched earth" policy.

The result of the war was never in doubt, only its duration and costs were unknown. America won and with it the West. Now they can undertake the reconstruction and rebuilding of war-affected areas—Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Israel, even Iraq—at the expense of regional countries. These activities would mainly benefit the Western economies. Already the scramble for contracts has started and British P.M. [Prime Minister] John Major said that countries who actively engaged in this hot conflict have the priority in landing construction projects. This means that the jobs should go to the U.S. and Britain—the two countries who are now in recession and expected to exhibit very minimal, if not negative, economic growth. This is the chance to boost their employment levels, expand the market for their products and services with a relative advantage over Japan, Germany, the Soviet Union, France, Italy— countries who have already established networks in the Middle East—simply because the U.S. and Britain have contributed more to the fighting.

In the war's aftermath, America believes it can afford to be smug—it is the winner, Iraq the loser. The U.S. however, might have oversimplified the solution to its economic woes by interfering in the affairs of the Persian Gulf region for the explosive mixture of nationalism and Islam will not necessarily be contained with its sitting on the regions' wealth. [sentence as published] Instead militancy in the Arab [world] might well grow stronger the farther one moves from the battlefield.

After having won, the U.S. feels it has bagged the first modern technological regional war of the post-Cold War era and is in a position to exert influence and control. It can be the sole dominating influence in the Middle East.

If America did not doubt the "righteousness" of its "cause," it should be aware that the problems of the Middle East will not fade with Saddam Husayn's defeat. The region's populace now feel, more than ever, that they deserve better than cruel and absolute dictators, Western-manipulated leaders, or corrupt monarchies. They will always remember that the Western powers, out of Cold War logic, fear of Iran's increasing regional role, or plain greed turned Saddam Husayn from a local despot to a regional destabilizer.

As for Saddam, his fate appears to have been sealed after casting his die with the West. Iraqis know that as recently as 1979 theirs was a prosperous country. For what it has become and for the defeat and humiliation it has suffered, they will rightly blame their leader.

Even in totalitarian societies, people know more than one might think. Iraqis are aware of what happened in their country. After years of sacrifice in the war against Iran, they were less eager to die for the Kuwaiti grab. While democracies cannot sustain too many war casualties, absolute dictatorship cannot survive defeat.

Commentary Views West's Interest in Mideast Peace

LD0703150191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary on President Bush's speech to Congress]

[Text] In the joint session of the U.S. Congress, that country's President, George Bush, delineated the future political moves in the Middle East. In his remarks, he stressed the U.S. viewpoint on stability, security, economic growth, and the resolution of the Middle East problem, and considered UN Resolutions 242 and 338 the framework for resolving the Palestine issue.

The U.S. President's remarks on security in the Middle East ended the existing speculation about future actions in the region. The plan has been set up in such a way that U.S. vulnerability in the future is minimized, while at the same time it brings about conditions suitable to the assumptions of the ruling group of the United States.

In the Persian Gulf war, although the U.S.-led multinational forces achieved military victory in an unbalanced conflict, this victory will be complete only by properly organizing the status quo in the region and preventing negative consequences. Despite the West's widespread political and propagandist efforts, the recent war has become a U.S. and Arab war in the public opinion of the Arab masses, and the increase of anti-American sentiment is quite tangible. At the same time, the danger exists for the United States that the Persian Gulf puts that country in the position of a Middle East pariah, who has no friends but Israel. If we realize that as a result of the Persian Gulf war the danger of more instability in governments such as Jordan and Egypt is quite likely, the necessity for urgent U.S. action to improve the status quo will become clear.

Repeated contacts and successive meetings of U.S., European, and Soviet officials with each other and with interested and influential regional states may be an effort to achieve a collective solution. From the Western viewpoint, the Middle East is suffering from ancient problems, whose symptoms have been exacerbated by the recent war. These problems are hostage to the resolution of three issues: religious fundamentalism, regional disputes, and the final banning of weapons of mass destruction, in other words, chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. From the Western viewpoint, these three issue are interconnected in a significant way and must be confronted on all sides. From that viewpoint, the concept of relying on mere military security has been defeated, and security should not be confined to military security only. On the contrary, an extended meaning of security must be borne in mind that will include political and economic security as well. The Westerners say that while we talk about fundamentalists, they talk of the people's problems, and it is natural that the people should lean toward them. Meanwhile general poverty and political despotism are some of the main points that are being stressed by fundamentalism or political extremism. To eliminate this problem, resolution of regional disputes and finally the Arab-Israeli issue have the highest priority. This will rid the region of the breathtaking arms race and bring about the opportunity to redirect military expenses toward economic affairs and improve the living conditions of the people. At the same time, peace in the region dilutes the pretext of foreign threats and internal repression and lays the groundwork for political development and general participation.

As for the destruction of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, on one hand it is an effective aid in decreasing tension and eliminating the arms race in the region; on the other, it is considered a guarantee of Israel's security, something to which Europe and the United States consider themselves committed.

Although there may not be much disagreement among the United States, Europe, and the Soviet Union on the roots of the Middle East's problems, there are deep rifts between them on how to remove those problems. The United States, the Soviet Union, and Europe are pursuing their own interests, and naturally look for solutions that will safeguard most of their interests. These interests are in harmony in some areas and conflict in others. But what keeps them together is that, in any case, peace costs far less than war.

Commentary on Efforts for Lasting Peace

LD0703213291 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1642 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Excerpt] Now that the war in the region has ended, the most important issue on the agenda is to find ways to

establish peace and stable security in this sensitive and crisis-ridden area of the world.

From a brief look at the history of Middle East conflicts, it can be clearly realized that those conflicts, in fact, stem from the competition between powers vying to expand their influence and gain further benefits from the wealth of the countries of the region. Iran's confrontation against the southern Persian Gulf states during the previous regime under the banner of the gendarme of the region, ever-increasing support for Israel whose expansionist policies are the most significant cause of the outbreak of crises during the past few decades, and finally the prolonged arming of Iraq during its war with Iran, all testify to the belief that the cause of most conflicts in the Middle East should be seen in the policies of the world powers.

It seems that the support by France and a number of major European countries for a regional security plan, and the U.S. President's emphasis that an American solution cannot have any effect on the conflicts and problems which exist in that part of the world, point to the fact that those countries themselves have realized their past mistakes but are still not prepared to correct their future policies. The world unanimously believes that the security of any region should be provided by the countries of that region, and that it is impossible to establish security from the outside.

In the view of some Middle East analysts, stopping or reducing the export of arms to the Middle East and the absence of unbalanced military support for certain countries of the region can play significant roles in averting conflicts. On the other hand, it is necessary for the countries of the region to end military competition, which serves the interests of the world powers, through the creation of healthy competition in the economic arena and in line with regional progress and development.

In fact the economic growth of those countries and the development of political and economic ties can themselves serve as the best assurance for safeguarding friendship and creating security.

The countries of the region should note that if carelessness continues and financial and human resources are employed toward weakening each other, then the opportunity to compensate them may never come.

In any case, if the countries of the region are unable to achieve unanimous agreement, foreign intervention and a repeat of past events cannot be ruled out.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in any case, is trying to employ its large-scale economic, political, and military capability toward the establishment of a lasting peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni on Supporting Afghan Rebels

LD0703205391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni met today at the holy shrine of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his soul, with a group of Afghan strugglers and mojahedin taking part in the second gathering of Shiite Afghan mojahedin. He praised the Afghan people for their struggles.

Addressing the Afghan mojahedin, he said: Iran has never made a deal with anyone or any power about your interests, and it has always defended your rights in international circles. He added: There was a time when, if we retreated, even by one step, from our stance toward you, they were ready to make a lot of concessions to us. But because of our Islamic precepts, humanitarian values, and revolutionary spirit, we did not do so, and we defended you and your ideals in all political circles.

He said: Today the Muslims, strugglers, and revolutionaries of the world have come to realize more than ever what pressures you have undergone in your 12-year struggle against arrogance. While Iraq, in spite of her war machine, was defeated by the allies in less than a month, you are still fighting against the other superpower and are defending your rights. God willing, you will be victorious. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Iranian Report of U.S. Bases in Pakistan Denied

BK0703164491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that the United States has not asked for any facilities regarding establishment of military bases on Pakistani soil and even if such a request is made, there is no question of entertaining it. Commenting on a report from the Iranian news agency carried in an Iranian daily, the spokesman stated categorically that the United States has no bases on Pakistani territory.

PAEC's Nuclear Capability Reviewed

BK0703145791 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 91 pp 4, 6

[Article by Munir Ahmed Suleri: "Capabilities and Potentials of PAEC"]

[Text] PAEC [Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission] has brought immense economic, technological, industrial and agricultural benefits to the nation. Despite embargoes and restraints on the supply of spare parts and nuclear materials, KANUPP [Karachi Nuclear Power Plant] had already generated over five billion kilowatt hours of electricity. PAEC's agricultural research institutes developed 13 new varieties of cotton wheat, rice, and mungbean through nuclear techniques. These new

varieties have added over 300 million [not specified] to the national economy each year. NIAB-78 [Nuclear Institute of Agriculture and Biology] had ushered in cotton revolution in the country and given an impetus to local textile industry.

Similarly at its nine nuclear medical centres, PAEC has been handling more than 1,65,000 [as published] patients every year through provision of cancer treatment and diagnostic services. The local industry has likewise been helped and over 500 quality control specialists trained by PAEC. The Commission had set up a number of training institutes such as the Centre for Nuclear Studies (CNS), Karachi Nuclear Power Training Centre (KNPTC) etc., to satisfy growing requirements of high quality manpower in nuclear engineering, computer applications, nuclear power plant operations and nuclear medicine hundreds of specialists had been trained by PAEC in these important disciplines at M.Sc. level. The nuclear engineering programme has been expanded to Ph.D. level. The Commission works closely with the University Grants Commission in training of students and teachers.

Prior to Mr. Munir's induction in the office of Chairman, the Commission had a strength of merely 150 scientists and engineers in all establishments of PAEC. Today, there is a contingent of about 2,000 scientists and engineers. As a matter of fact, a comprehensive overall nuclear programme was approved in 1972 which is being pursued ever since.

However, India's nuclear explosion in 1974 caused a great setback to the peaceful application of nuclear energy throughout the world especially in the developing nations against whom restrictions were placed on any further sharing of nuclear technology. Pakistan was particularly made a target of discriminatory treatment and a number of treaties and contracts with Pakistan even under international safeguards and controls were cancelled. The unilaterally broken contracts included those for a fuel fabrication plant, a reprocessing plant and a heavy water plants. All supplies of nuclear fuel, heavy water and spare parts were cut off for KANUPP in 1977 turning its operations problemic and challenging. The PAEC scientists and engineers had acquitted themselves very well by continuing to operate this plant safely for the past 16 years.'

For this purpose, the PAEC established a full-fledged Atomic Energy Minerals Centre, Lahore, charged with the duty of uranium resource development. It means that this Centre is responsible for the gigantic task of prospecting exploration and analysis of all types of nuclear minerals. In other words, the PAEC had to develop its own uranium mines and learn to purify the uranium and fabricate nuclear fuel for KANUPP in accordance with the international standards.

The first fuel bundle for commercial power reactor was fabricated in December, 1978, when Pakistan joined 12 countries in the world in its fabrication. Uranium is mined, processed, and refined by PAEC scientists and engineers under the able guidance of Mr. Munir Ahmad Khan. Since, then, thousands of fuel bundles for KANUPP were fabricated without a single failure so far.

The country has the largest research and development facilities in nuclear field i.e. the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH, Nilore) in the entire Muslim world and happen to be the second largest in the whole of Third World.

Pakistan has achieved mastery over the front end of nuclear fuel cycle and is at present carrying out research in advanced fields like lasers, computers and new material reguired for nuclear application.

PAEC now possess the capability to design and build its own reactors which is indicated by the replacement of the old reactor at PINSTECH by a new and more powerful one. A consortium of major industries has been set up to manufacture nuclear reactors within the country. The consortium is working under the guidance of PAEC.

The PAEC will produce first reactor which would be a bit more expensive than the one brought from international market. However, the mass domestic production of nuclar reactors by the consortium would be very economical, and a reactor costing about $1000 million in international market would be ready for just one quarter of it.

The mass production of nuclear reactors would give the country many additional benefits. The quality of the thermal power plants, fertilisers, cement, textile and other industrial units would improve tremendously, raising the overall standard of industries. These "by-products" will be more valuable than even the nuclear reactor itself. It is estimated that Pakistan will be able to generate some 6000 megawatts of nuclear power throught domestically produced and imported power plants by 2009.

During Mr. Munir's tenure, the scientists and engineers succeeded in manufacturing a small research and training reactor of 27 KW capacity set-up at PINSTECH. This is the second reactor set up at PINSTECH. The PAEC redesigned the first research reactor of 5mw supplied by the United States and has recently increased its capacity to 10mw. The relevant equipment of the reactor has been produced locally.

Foreign experts of international repute are of the opinion that for a country like Pakistan, which does not possess much resources and which has the capability to redesign a reactor, it is a big achievement and will help it in its future nuclear power related projects. In order to reduce the cost of fuel used in a nuclear reactors the PAEC is considering various enrichment techniques, other than the centrifuge method, being employed by other countries. At present Brazil, Australia, Japan, France, the US, the Soviet Union and Holland can enrich uranium

through centrifuge method but some of them have abandoned the same for various reasons. They are now switching over to uranium enrichment through laser and this method would be common in the next decade. This technology is expected to reduce the cost by one half and PAEC is making strenuous effort to develop this technology for the purpose.

PAEC has manufactured laser range finders which are used to measure distance of various enemy targets so that they could be hit precisely without wastage of extra ammunition.

PAEC has set up a laboratory, the first of its kind in Asia and one of the few in the world, to determine the site suitability. The laboratory is located at Lahore. Public and private sectors are using the facility of "SILICON" for their projects. A dynamic testing costing between Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 abroad will be possible at SILICON only for Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000.

The Commission has also developed biological techniques for economically utilising saline land and established a biosaline research laboratory along with a demonstration farm near Lahore. The techniques evolved at this laboratory are being practised by progressive farmers. Large tracts of saline land can be converted into livestock farms to meet export of meat and meat products. With the commissioning of gamma irradiation plant named Pakistan Radiation Services, Lahore (PARAS), Pakistan's first commercial plant for gamma sterilisation of medical products like bandage, disposable syringes, etc, gloves, etc, Casualties due to infection will be reduced drastically thus ensuring better public medical care.

The Commission has also developed techniques for preservation of food and other products, whose application could enable export of the surplus. The export of irradiated products of certain kinds has already been internationally approved for marketing.

The delay in the installation of nuclear power stations was mainly due to the hostile attitude of the supplier States. The USA has always singled out Pakistan for discrimination in nuclear field. The US economic and military aid to Pakistan has been cut off for the year 1990-91. The authorities in America contend that the US President is not entirely satisfied that Pakistan is pursuing a peaceful nuclear programme. He therefore, has not certified to the US Congress that Pakistan nuclear programme is peaceful. It was not justified even under the Pressler Amendment.

However, there is total public consensus on our nuclear policy as it reflects needs and aspiration of the nation. That is why governments after governments have been following it. Our elected Prime Minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has declared on more than one occasion that aid or no aid, we will pursue our peaceful nuclear programme because it serves our best national interest.

Anyway, the recent agreements reached with France and China for installation of a 950mw and 300mw nuclear plant, respectively represented an important breakthrough. They would be built with the maximum participation of PAEC engineers and scientists and local industry which would go a long way to increasing our expertise in construction and safety of such plants. This way, by the end of the 1990s Pakistan would be in a position to undertake building of locally designed nuclear power.

The person behind the curtain, making valuable contribution silently, is Mr Munir Ahmad Khan. It was his realisation that PAEC actually first started the Kahuta projects in February, 1975.

It was then under the charge of an equally competent and renowned engineer, Syed Bashiruddin Mahmood, whose engineering inventions have been patented in Canada and Europe under his name as SBM probes.

Why and how he and his boss Munir Ahmad Khan were booted out of the projects is a different story which may be told later by those who know.

However, it is a worst kind of aspersion to assert that Mr Munir Ahmad Khan and PAEC have failed in the achievement of the objectives particularly in training manpower in various important disciplines. Only the PINSTECH is staffed with more than 1,500 first-class scientists and engineers who may be favourably compared with foreign scientists and engineers of repute who have achieved nuclear autarchy.

It is advisable that in larger national interest, while dealing with the nuclear issue, utmost restraint and care should be exercised so as not to give ammunition to our critics abroad to undermine our nuclear programme. We have suffered a great deal due to discriminatory regulations and embargoes. We should learn from India, Israel and South Africa who seldom played up or played down their nuclear weapon capability and yet continued receiving nuclear cooperation from advanced countries. We should refrain from criticising our sensitive establishments like PAEC.